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Pakistan

The government is taking "unprecedented measures" to prevent the opposition People's Democratic Alliance from staging a protest march to Islamabad on 18 November, according to AFP. Large numbers of Army and paramilitary troops are reported to be guarding public buildings and digging trenches outside the Parliament House. Meanwhile, opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, with the help of some supporters, broke through the police cordon placed around her house to prevent her from participating in the march and escaped to an unknown location, AFP reports.

Algeria

The government decided "to scale down its diplomatic representation in Iran," according to a foreign ministry statement reported by Algiers radio. The statement also notes that Iran "has been officially requested to reduce its diplomatic mission in Algeria." The statement adds that the move follows Iran's "campaign of interference and hostility...against Algeria and its institutions."

Iraq

A "prominent Iraqi military expert" has defected to Iran and is now giving authorities information on Iraq's military capability and nuclear programs, according to London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI. Iranian sources said the defector is a senior Iraqi Army officer who holds the rank of brigadier, but they would not reveal his name. The sources said Iraq still has between 200 and 300 of the missiles known as "al-'Abbas" and "al-Husayn."

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria Said Stalling; Progress Seen in Other Tracks

TA1711202292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The U.S. Administration is trying to persuade Syria to reach a document of principles with Israel prior to President Clinton's inauguration. This is based on the realization that Clinton's staff will not deal with the peace process earlier than February 1993. However, the Syrian delegation in Washington repeatedly insists on obtaining an Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal from the Golan.

In the talks with Jordan, the Palestinians, and Lebanon, the first signs of progress were discernible. Ya'ir Stern and Ehud Ya'ari report from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [Stern] The problem in the field is that there has been no progress. The head of the Syrian delegation said that there will be no declaration of principles without an Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal. [passage omitted]

However, Itamar Rabinovich, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, is certain that the Syrians came to Washington with the intention of blocking the progress of the talks.

[Rabinovich] The Syrian delegation apparently returned from the midround consultations with very clear instructions to focus on a very inflexible, very aggressive demand to hear the two words full withdrawal and to hold off progress unless it hears those words. Since they realize perfectly well that this demand for full withdrawal is a sure recipe for walking in place, we understand that they consciously entered this round of talks with the intention of stalling.

[Stern] Surprisingly, there has been slight progress in the other forums. With the Palestinians, informal subcommittees are discussing land, economic matters, and the structure of the administrative council. [passage omitted]

Similar subcommittees have begun working in the Jordanian track. They are discussing water, environmental issues, energy, economy, and banking.

The talks with Lebanon are on the verge of an agreement on establishing a joint military committee that will discuss security arrangements for southern Lebanon and Israel's northern border. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-'Allaf: 'No Clear Change' in Israeli Stand

JN1811075392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Discussions on the question of security were resumed at the 10th meeting of the seventh round of Middle East peace talks yesterday. Afterward, the question of withdrawal was also discussed.

Following the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the talks, said that despite the seriousness of discussions, there was no clear change in the Israeli position.

Al-'Allaf urged the Israeli side to present more positive ideas to achieve the objectives of the peace talks. He affirmed that peace cannot be achieved if one inch of territory remained under Israeli occupation.

He added that peace can be established only on justice, and should include all Arab parties, the victims of the dispute that has continued for more than four decades.

Asked about what Syria can do to calm Israel's security fears concerning the Golan, he said: The Arabs, Syria in particular, need security more than Israel. A review of the Arab-Israeli dispute proves this because we see that the map of Israel has always grown bigger through expansion and occupation of more Arab territories.

Al-'Allaf said that the Arabs want peace because it is a noble objective, but they will not accept Israel's receiving a price for returning what it has occupied illegitimately.

He added that the peace process has provided a unique, historic opportunity for Israel to prove that it sincerely wants peace.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, also said that Yitzhaq Rabin's policy toward peace is essentially no different from the policy of his predecessor, Yitzhaq Shamir, which rejected UN resolutions on which the peace process is based.

In an interview with Voice of America last night, he said that Rabin sets various preconditions that obstruct peace and rejects full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

He added that Israel does not plan to withdraw fully from the occupied Palestinian territories. Al-'Allaf said that the U.S. Government has a great role to play and is a catalyst for the peace process. Therefore, it should convince the party that obstructs the peace process that achieving peace is in its interest, as well as in the interest of the world.

Hopes Clinton To Maintain U.S. Stand

JN1711113092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks in Washington, has said that the essential problems which have prevented so far the formulation of a joint statement on the general principles for peace are still unresolved due to Israel's intransigence toward withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the other Arab territories it occupied in 1967.

In an exclusive statement, al-'Allaf said that the Israelis are presenting a series of unacceptable conditions on the nature of peace. These conditions, he added, contradict the UN Security Council resolutions dealing with a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Al-'Allaf hoped that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton would maintain the U.S. position on the basis of which the Arabs are committed to the peace process. He added: President-elect Bill Clinton will neither sacrifice U.S. interests nor harm U.S. credibility in the Middle East. He noted that many Arab parties agreed to take part in the peace process relying on U.S. seriousness and pledges toward peace in the region.

Al-'Allaf said that the Israeli delegation has hardened its position following Clinton's election and is working not to achieve progress in the talks.

Palestinians Offered New Proposal on Police

TA1811103092 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 18 Nov 92 p 3

[Report by Pinhas Inbari]

[Text] The Israeli delegation in Washington proposed to the Palestinians the establishment of a Palestinian police force with full powers (including security matters) in Palestinian towns and villages. At the same time, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would totally withdraw from the towns and deploy outside them. This was reported by Jerusalem sources, who cited the example of East Jerusalem, where the IDF have no authority and security duties are entrusted to the police. The IDF would be responsible only for those areas owned by Israelis, such as the settlements. The Palestinian police would be allowed to detain and interrogate settlers, if they were suspected of having committed a felony within an Arab town. The question of who would have the authority to detain wanted men within Palestinian areas remains to be clarified, the sources noted, adding that the proposals were raised in informal talks in which no votes are taken.

Our correspondent points out that the proposals come in the wake of Israel's decision to drop the approach whereby autonomy would apply only to the people and not to the land, and to embrace a new approach of territorial sharing of land with the Palestinians.

Israel also proposed to the Palestinians four types of legal systems: An Israeli legal system that would deal with security offenses, another Israeli legal system for the settlers, a Palestinian legal system for the Palestinians in areas owned by them, and a joint coordinating system which would rule in cases where there is doubt.

Nabil Sha'th rejected the Israeli proposals, saying they were based on the division of Palestinian land and noting that they destroy geographic integrity in order to get the bit, ours and for all, on an independent Palestinian national authority during the interim period. He likened the proposals to "Bantustans," the privileged countries South Africa gave the blacks.

'Position Debate' With Palestinians Reported

TA1811061692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0501 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Report by Arye Golan in Washington]

[Text] Members of the Israeli delegation said this morning that the Palestinians came to the meeting with a negative disposition this time and rejected Israel's proposals, which they called unacceptable. What was discussed was the autonomy's police. They asked why the Palestinian police should not have authority over the Israelis in the settlements, as well. Israel answered: They will not have such authority. The Palestinians also reiterated their demand for a 180-member autonomous council. Israel said it would not have a parliament, that it was unreasonable. Dr al-Shath and his colleagues also demanded legislative powers for the council, and once again he was told that it could enact only bylaws. In the subcommittee on lands, the issues of settlements and Resolution 242 were raised. We are negotiating interim settlements, Israeli delegates responded; we will not resolve all the problems at this stage.

It is hard to say that it was a very constructive day, a senior Israeli source summed up the Position debate, but he added that there is no justification for the remarks by the head of the Palestinian delegation that he was leaving the conference room in a gloomy mood. Despite the foot dragging and the retreat along the Palestinian track, there was some progress on the Jordanian track. There were detailed discussions in a series of working groups, held in an atmosphere of genuine negotiations. The seventh round of talks ends tomorrow, and the eighth round starts on 7 December. The peace talks continue.

Rabbinate Accuses Palestinians of Ignoring Offers

TA1811072492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Elyagim Rabinowitz, head of the talks with the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, by Shalom Qitsi in Washington—live]

[Text] [Qitsi] You have a split personality. With the Jordanians things are going well, while with the Palestinians it is not so good.

[Rabinowitz] Negotiations have the tendency of having ups and downs. With the Jordanians, thank God, we are in a new stage of the negotiations. We have passed the stage of discussions characterized by declaratory tones. The negotiations now have become businesslike and profound on a variety of issues on the published agenda: water, environment, energy, economy. It is a good feeling, although we should not become euphoric, when you conclude several hours dealing with such issues in

several groups and with the involvement of many people. We hope that it will continue in the future, in the coming days and rounds.

[Qirsh] What about the Palestinians?

[Rabinowitz] The Palestinians apparently have not yet realized that we are discussing interim settlements, which are by nature restricted, and we have to understand that there are issues that are not on the negotiating table: Jerusalem, Jewish settlement, security. There are many issues they can achieve, but the feeling is that they prefer to deal with what is not on the agenda. We are discussing the interim settlements, not the permanent arrangement. We are trying to present a variety of proposals, which are really very extensive; there are many fields, including land issues. We offered a mixed model that contains many possibilities that would give expression to the Palestinians and the new situation. To our regret, however, the interlocutors, and I say that responsibly—I do not believe we are receiving the same respect in their public statements—prefer to ignore these offers and concentrate on what cannot be achieved. What is regrettable is that it is presented to the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and that could create a misperception leading to a gloom atmosphere, which is unjustified. There are lots of very detailed proposals on the table. There was an opportunity in the working groups, and there still is an opportunity to deal with the heart of the problems. Our short-range aim is to reach a joint outlook, which must come about because it is the key to everything else.

[Qirsh] In your view, to what extent is the foot-dragging, mainly in the talks with the Palestinians, influenced by the fact that there is a transitional administration in the United States?

[Rabinowitz] It may have an impact. It may also influence the other tracks in Washington with the Arab states. For our part, the State of Israel's aspirations and desires in the peace negotiations have nothing to do with any outgoing or incoming administration; they are tied to the until the peace. It might be possible that for various reasons, perhaps also the desire to get more involvement by third parties, and internal problems, all these things might have some impact. Anyway, we will continue to make the effort, but the public must know that it is hard because the Palestinian side prefers at this stage to deal with the problematic issues and show how everything is going badly instead of looking at the overall picture, which is completely different. Interim arrangements for the Palestinians is a whole world of difference for them.

[Qirsh] Anyway, the talks resume on 7 December.

[Rabinowitz] That was proposed to us and the Israeli delegation heads announced that if the Arab sides agree we will be present on that date. At this stage, the Arabs still have not responded. They apparently still have to hold consultations.

'Abd-al-Shafi Terms Talks 'Extremely Negative'

JN1811081492 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Palestinian chief negotiator to Middle East peace talks Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said in Washington last night that the peace talks did not make progress because the Israeli side did not commit itself to peace terms of reference, particularly the Security Council Resolution 242.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that it seems that the Israelis have their own terms of reference. He added that the Palestinians have not yet received the Israeli replies on issues presented to them.

'Abd-al-Shafi made the comment after three hours of negotiations with the Israeli team that he described as extremely negative. 'Abd-al-Shafi also told reporters that he left the meeting with a gloomy outlook about the prospects of the peace process.

Meanwhile, the other three tracks of the negotiations witnessed slight improvement on a number of issues raised during previous rounds of lengthy talks.

The heads of the Arab delegations are due to hold their fourth coordination meeting early today for assessing the outcome of present negotiations on all tracks.

'Ashrawi Rejects Peres Proposals on Territory

JN1711184892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 17 November; from the "With the Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, good evening.

['Ashrawi] Good evening.

[Mu'addi] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Security Committee that Israel believes that each town or village should administer [idarat] lands within its own boundaries. This is considered a change in the previous position providing that self-rule applies to the inhabitants but not to the territory. What is your comment?

['Ashrawi] First, we do not use the term the administration of territory. The question is one of controlling and owning the territory. As you known, they have divided the territory into three categories. The first would be under Palestinian administration. The second category is settlements, which they are trying to establish as annexed territory and which they say is Jewish-owned. The third category is a middle one concerning the territory that they call state lands. This is the wrong name because there can be no state lands within the

occupied territories. We have rejected this division from the outset. The fact of the matter is that there are Palestinian lands occupied as a whole. They are the West Bank and Gaza. East Jerusalem is part of the West Bank. We do not agree to begin dividing the territory. Israel is trying to impose the idea that the territory it occupied is Israeli territory or under Israeli control to set up settlements there. This is rejected. Besides, the transitional self-government should be empowered to control and not administer the territory.

[Mu'addi] Yes. A final question, in light of the lack of progress in the negotiations, do you not believe that it would have been better to suspend the bilateral negotiations until the new U.S. Administration assumes power?

['Ashrawi] Suspending the negotiations is not as easy as it may look. There are many pending issues. If the negotiations are suspended, it would be difficult to resume them or to give them an impetus to move forward.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side, many thanks.

['Ashrawi] Not at all. You are welcome, Sa'id.

Al-Majali Sees 'No Substantial Progress'

JN1811091192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The Jordanian and Israeli sides ended yesterday's session of talks at 0200, Jordan local time.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, said that the unofficial working groups specialized in water, environment, and energy, met last evening and that their talks were deeper than they had been in the past. He said: We will continue our position in these meetings until the Israeli side accepts the agenda's final formula.

He added that the Israeli side presented a formula that we rejected outright, and we hope they will pay attention to the formula that we presented in order to draft the final formula.

Dr. al-Majali regretted that negotiations on most tracks have continued to make no progress, adding that there has been no substantial progress on any track.

In a press statement following the coordination meetings of heads of the Arab delegations, held at the Jordanian delegation's place of residence in Washington, Dr. al-Majali said that based on our belief in the peace process, the Arab parties to the negotiations have decided to continue participation in this peace process and in the next sessions of negotiations, regardless of the intransigent Israeli position, so that the world will know that the Arabs support peace and that it is the other side that is creating difficulties and obstacles to peace.

Israel Ready To Discuss Lebanese Withdrawl Demand

TA1811073392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Israel is prepared to deal with Lebanon's demand over the security zone. This is the wording of an amended version of the proposal offered by the Israeli delegation to the talks. Shlomo Raz reports from Washington.

[Raz] Israel has informed already Lebanon that it has no intention of dealing with UN Resolution 425, which states that Israel must withdraw from the security zone in south Lebanon. In Washington, Uri Lubrani reiterated that the matter will be discussed only within the framework of talks on a full contractual peace between the two countries. Israel, however, in a sort of readiness to refer to the Lebanese demand to withdraw to the international border, now is prepared to discuss Lebanon's positions. This was said in the reworded offer, which was presented to the Lebanese again, according to which joint working groups of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Lebanese Army officers would convene. It was agreed that the Israeli paper would be discussed at today's meeting between the two delegations, so there is something to talk about with the Lebanese now. [passage omitted]

Sha'th Says Pause Needed To Assess Talks

NC1811082892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Washington, 18 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and head of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks, has stated that the conclusion of the seventh round of talks between the Arabs and Israel tomorrow will mark the end of one stage of negotiations after which there must be a pause to assess progress.

He said: The negotiating teams—the Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian, and Palestinian teams on one side and Israel on the other—do not have that much time to achieve positive results that can form the basis for continuing the negotiations. Each one of these delegations needs, for different reasons that concern each one of them, to achieve specific results within four or five months at most. As for the Palestinian side, it needs to achieve results that will open the way for a solution and give the Palestinians hope that they will be able to determine their own fate. He warned: It will be difficult in five months from now at most to convince the Palestinian people that there is still, in fact, an opportunity to achieve peace and for the PLO to continue to defend the usefulness of the negotiations.

Sha'th continued: The Palestinian-Israeli talks have gone through two phases. The first one ended on 30 April when Yitzhaq Shamir's government fell. Shamir admitted that he planned to prevaricate and waste time

so that the talks would go on for 10 years, during which time he would settle half a million Jews in the occupied Arab territories. The second phase began when Yitzhaq Rabin formed his government. This phase ended this week with a new Israeli plan for a complicated legal and judicial system that Israel wants to apply in the West Bank, but which, in fact, covers up a scheme to partition, split, and finally fragment whatever is left of Palestine's territories before the negotiations reach a final solution.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that the Palestinian side categorically rejects this plan because it will not lead to peace, adding that there is no way that its principles and twisted bases can be accepted. He said: This is why we need a "pause" at the conclusion of the current seventh round of talks tomorrow so we can probe the next phases and steps. The Palestinian delegation will travel to Tunisia at the conclusion of the talks tomorrow for consultations with the Palestinian leadership about the results to date. The Palestinian side will then take the outcome of these consultations to the 25 November meetings in Beirut of the foreign ministers of the countries involved in the peace process.

In reply to a question on the judicial system as reported in the Israeli plan presented to the Palestinian delegation the day before yesterday which Israel wants to apply to the inhabitants of the West Bank, Dr. Sha'th said: This plan consists of four trial systems that differentiate between Jewish settlers and the Palestinian inhabitants, including "mixed courts" such as those that existed in Egypt during the British occupation. He said that this system cannot be applied in practice and is also rejected in principle, but at the same time he stressed that the Palestinian side will continue with the negotiations to see what the Israeli side is seeking, while always firmly and clearly underlining the essence of the Palestinian stand on fundamental issues such as Jerusalem and the settlements. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegate Comments on Refugee Talks

JN1811093092 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Nov 92 pp 20, 23

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpt] Walid Zaqqut, member of the Palestinian delegation to the meetings of the committee on refugees, has said that the sessions were successful and "the serious, vital issues pertaining to the question of refugees were discussed. He noted that the question of refugees was discussed in its political dimension as it relates to the essence of Palestinian rights, which are based on resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 194 and 237, as well as their strong links with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which constitute the basis of the peace march.

Upon his return from the Canadian capital yesterday, Zaqqut told AL-DUSTUR: We, as a Palestinian team, succeeded in achieving our constant position toward the political and legal dimensions of the question of refugees.

He noted that the final statement, which was read by the Canadian representative, made clear reference to these dimensions, as well as to adopting all UN resolutions as a basis for discussion and resolving the problem of refugees. [passage omitted]

He added: The Palestinian side is ready to deal with any proposals in order to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees through international organizations, especially the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which was created for this purpose originally. He affirmed that the problem of refugees is a political problem that would be resolved by achieving the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and repatriation.

On Israeli participation in the meetings of the committee on refugees, Zaqqut said: Israel's participation was necessary so that it would comply with its international obligations, implement the will of international legitimacy, and recognize the rights of the Palestinian people, which are supported by historical facts and UN resolutions, so as to ensure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and repatriation.

He added: We have forcefully explained our demands to the international community, and noticed that most delegations showed positive understanding.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Adviser Announces Opposition to Peace Talks

JN1811073192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0309 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, adviser to Palestinian leader 'Arafat, has announced in Amman that six members of the Fatah Central Committee oppose the continuation of talks with Israel. He added that the acceptance of the U.S. letter of assurances—which he described as a disaster—was a mistake.

Al-Hasan on Ending 'Deadlock,' Continuing Momentum

JN1611101092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Nov 92 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'ida al-Kilani]

[Text] Amman—Major power changes on the international scene may work in favour of Arab countries who must use this opportunity in the current peace negotiations, said Hani al-Hasan, a member of the central committee of Fatah.

"We must not sit back and watch what is happening helplessly saying we can't do better," said Mr. al-Hasan

Monday in a lecture entitled 'The Palestinian cause: where to from here?' "A new policy must be adopted to get us out of the deadlock we put ourselves into due to the predominant conviction of our weakness," he said.

Mr. al-Hasan pointed to the current changes in world power which he said will be based in the future on economic considerations rather than ideological ones, that is; the current economic clash between Europe and Japan with the United States will certainly work in favour of the Arab countries, he predicted.

"Fear and inertia should not haunt the negotiations table and influence our stand." Mr. al-Hasan stressed. "We have to understand that major powers are struggling over our region to exploit it, and if we don't use this card now, we will never be able to impose ourselves."

The new policy that must be adopted by Arab countries, according to Mr. al-Hasan, must be established on many considerations with the main aim as a unified Arab position. The first step to be adopted should be setting up our stance in the peace talks based on the withdrawal principle, Mr. al-Hasan said.

"Land is not subject for discussion nor is it a basis for negotiations," he said. "Even when the Egyptian president went through the negotiation process with Israel, he did not accept what is called the 'phase negotiations.' It was a 'yes' for instant implementation, and 'no' for giving up any inch of Egypt's land."

To get out of the peace talks' deadlock, Mr. al-Hasan said that the Arab sides must first adopt one position in the negotiations. "Acceptance of the tracks' principle has created obstacles in front of the normal proceedings of the peace talks," he said. "How can you step in the way of someone who is achieving progress which may affect your interest?"

Mr. al-Hasan however explained that confrontations must continue while the peace talks are taking place: "To negotiate is to confront, if you want to have more progress and more concrete results, blood has to be shed," he said.

"We have to realize that our main enemy is Israel and not the Arab countries... We have to reject an Israeli-Palestinian confederation and welcome the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation formula," he said.

"Why do we tend to consider the confederation with Israel which will impose its hegemony and sovereignty and reject it with an Arab country who shares the

Qaddumi Interviewed on Damascus Trip

*PM1711121292 London *AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Nov 92 p 5*

[Wafa' Amr report: "Qaddumi: My Visit to Damascus Was Successful; There Is No Autonomy in Our Vocabulary"]

[Text] 'Amman—Farouq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, said yesterday that the PLO and Syria have agreed that any agreement reached in any of the negotiation tracks with Israel should be signed at the same time as [agreements reached in] other tracks to avoid any problems which might arise.

Qaddumi was talking to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI about his recent visit to Damascus. Referring to the Jordanian-Israeli draft agreement or an agenda for the negotiations, Qaddumi said that during his visit to Damascus "we did not discuss the Jordanian-Israeli draft agenda. It was agreed that we would each separately inquire and hold consultations with the brothers in Jordan." He added that the Syrian officials told the Palestinian delegation led by him that the Jordanian-Israeli document concerned the Palestinians more than it did Syria because they were in a joint delegation with Jordan.

Qaddumi said that "to avoid any misunderstanding, we have left it to the Jordanian brothers to tell us what they wish to tell us. We are fully confident that all the Arab parties are very eager to coordinate and that any agreement reached in any of the tracks will be signed simultaneously with the other tracks to avoid any problems that might arise. We preferred not to dwell on this matter in our discussions because my sole mission, as decided by the Palestinian leadership, was to discuss Palestinian-Syrian relations and common ideas for the future in the wake of the U.S. election results."

Qaddumi had visited Damascus to discuss the question of convening a coordination meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab states directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli negotiations. He arrived in Amman the day before yesterday to discuss the same thing with Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir. Qaddumi said that, in Amman and Damascus, "it was agreed to hold the next meeting in Beirut on a date to be agreed with the brothers in Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt after the seventh round of negotiations in Washington. I am on my way to Egypt to reach agreement on a specific date."

Qaddumi confirmed that his visit to Damascus was successful and that in the course of [illegible] of talks with the Syrian officials, all issues pertaining to Palestinian-Syrian relations were discussed, with concentration on the current and future phases and proceeding from the common understanding of the need to strengthen the solidarity of the parties directly concerned with a settlement because that creates a unified stance in support of the Arab negotiating delegations.

He added: "We also discussed the methods used by the Israelis to divide Arab ranks because the Israelis fear Arab solidarity and try to deal with each delegation separately, which is contrary to our unified Arab concept. The problem is one and the same and the enemy is one and the same." Qaddumi said that the talks also focused on what had been agreed upon as mentioned in the joint statements issued on the coordination meetings held in Amman, Lebanon, and Damascus.

On the question of a visit to Damascus by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Qaddumi said that he did not discuss that matter with the Syrian officials but the two sides emphasized the need to enhance cooperation through repeated visits and continuous contacts between us at all levels. They repeated to us what they had said before—that the gates of Damascus are always open to us without any official invitation and that it is up to us to visit when the time is right for us and when there is a need to visit Damascus, he said. He added that while in Damascus he met with [former Palestine National Council Speaker] Khalid al-Fahum, Talal Naji (of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command), and 'Imam al-Qadi, and that he would continue to visit all factions there.

Qaddumi said that Israel is unwilling to work for fundamental progress on all Arab tracks. He said he drew that conclusion on the basis of what Israel told Europe, namely that more time was needed for Israeli public opinion to absorb the results of the negotiations and more time for the Israeli economy to recover and not stumble. "Therefore, the Israelis are not interested in a fundamental achievement on all tracks. They speak softly and resort to flexible methods which give some people the impression that they are interested in peace. The truth, however, is different, as repeated aggressions against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian camps prove."

On the Palestinian-Israeli track in the Washington negotiations, Qaddumi stressed that the Palestinians insist on a legislative council with legislative powers. He added that "there is no autonomy in the Palestinian vocabularly. We agree to a transitional period not exceeding one year during which the Palestinian territory would be placed under international supervision, Israel would withdraw, and legislative elections would be held under international supervision and a legislative body would be elected with full jurisdiction over the territory, resources, and water."

The Palestinians, Qaddumi emphasized, reject administrative autonomy because, under such an "inadequate solution," Israel wants the territory to remain under Israeli sovereignty, does not consider Jerusalem to be part of the occupied territories, and wants the settlements to remain and be accepted in Palestinian territory and to be beefed up later on so that it would be claimed that the Palestinian people were a minority.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Parliamentary Speakers Meet

Speakers Arrive

BK1511002792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1755 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 14 (AFP)—Speakers of the national assemblies and lower houses of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries began arriving here Saturday to attend a two-day convention, an official source said.

The speakers from India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Pakistan were greeted at Kathmandu airport by Nepalese officials, including Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Maheshwor Prasad Singh.

The speakers of the lower houses of Sri Lanka and the Maldives have yet to arrive, the source noted.

Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala will inaugurate the speakers' convention on Sunday.

The SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Speakers Association Formed

BK1611100292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] An association of SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] speakers and parliamentarians has been formed. A charter to this effect was signed in Kathmandu today by parliament speakers of the SAARC nations. The first meeting of the newly formed association will be held in Dhaka next April. The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, signed the charter for India.

Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that the main objective of the association is to exchange ideas and information on parliamentary practices and procedures in the region.

Algeria

Diplomatic Mission in Iran To Be Reduced

LD1611175192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Algeria decided today to scale down its diplomatic representation in Iran. This announcement was made by the official spokesman of the foreign minister in a statement received today by APS.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry statement indicated that the Iranian Government has been officially requested to reduce its diplomatic mission in Algeria. According to the statement, this move follows a campaign of interference and hostility which Iran has been launching for more than a year against Algeria and its institutions.

Reasons for Action Examined

LD1711113292 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Algiers, Nov 17 (APS)—The Algerian Government has decided the reduction to a purely symbolic level of the diplomatic representation in Tehran and in the frame of strict symmetry, asked the Iranian authorities to reduce to three the number of diplomats in each of the capitals. This measure is in fact in the strict order or things, since more than a year and mainly following the resignation of the former head of state, the interruption of the electoral process and the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Algeria found itself in front of a systematic campaign of interference from the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its internal affairs and which shocked observers.

The internal political evolution marked by the advent of the Higher State Committee and the National Consultative Council, [word indistinct] institutions the state has set up to assure transition and reestablish order, security and the state authority, see [word indistinct] frustrated the Iranian leaders in their unavowed ambition of giving birth to an Islamic state on which they would act as a tutor and on which Tehran could have assured its influence and hegemony.

How could Tehran be convinced that Algeria could be converted into a base of expansion of theocratic fundamentalism in the Maghreb and Sahelian Africa? It seems that the evolution of events has caught unawares the Iranian analysts and strategists and raised an anti-Algerian campaign [words indistinct] a series of [word indistinct] statements of high Iranian dignitaries, campaign of the official and private press, political and diplomatic action, no means was spared to attempt on the external image of Algeria and its credibility and even try to destabilize the Algerian state and institutions.

These serious developments [word indistinct], everytime, the Algerian authorities react firmly and rapidly and decide the momentaneous [as received] recall of Ambassador Larbi Ould Khelifa in the summer of 1991, the definite recall of the ambassador designated to replace him, Abdelkader Hadjar, to discharge itself from the mission of representation of the interests of Iran to the USA, to freeze its relations of cooperation, in addition to the strong protests to the Iranian Government made at every shortcoming to the [passage indistinct] of possibilities, in serenity and discretion, reached unfortunately no result. The Iranian authorities persevered in their campaign of hostility against Algeria.

This campaign reached its paroxym during the tragical death of President Mohamed Boudiaf when one of the highest dignitaries of the Iranian religious hierarchy, Ayatollah Ahmed Jannati, did not hesitate to publicly rejoice about the criminal action seriously offending the collective conscience of the Algerian people and their feelings of affiliation. The Iranian authorities which were asked by the Algerian authorities to disavow the statement that was contrary to the principles of Islam, morals and civilized behavior, did not answer.

Before the persistence of this negative attitude and the logics of [words indistinct] to which the Iranian leaders seem to stick, Algeria always acted with reserve and proper judgement to preserve the essential things [but] could not remain indifferent to the pressures of a public opinion known for its intransigent attachment to anything touching the national sovereignty and which has lost patience because of the interferences of Iran and other foreign [word indistinct] powers in the national affairs.

Such interferences which were sometimes openly expressed in order to annul all efforts for the reestablishment of stability for which all patriots were trying to give their best, can no longer be tolerated or admitted. By deciding these new measures, the political leadership is answering, in conformity with the traditions of the Algerian diplomacy, to the legitimate expectations of the national opinion while trying not to fall in the temptation of irreparable decisions.

One must hope that the message be understood in Tehran as an ultimate warning which must be meditated and correctly perceived in other countries which have had ambiguous attitudes and which must lift doubt and dissipate fears that started to appear. These measures and this prospect underline the concern of the Higher State Committee which, in the communique that sanctioned the deliberations of its latest meeting clearly spoke in favour of the reinforcement of the diplomatic action.

Justice Minister Dismissed for 'Unfair' Treatment

LD1411204792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] A statement from the Presidency has said that, on Prime Minister Belaid Abdesalam's recommendation, Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi has terminated the services of Mr Abdelhamid Mahi Behi as minister of justice.

The prime minister's office has also said that this measure—the termination of the services of Justice Minister Abdelhamid Mahi Behi—is due to the fact that Mahi Behi had reversed, in spirit and in letter, Decree 621 of 18 August 1992, relating to high-ranking cadres appointed by decree which especially require prior written approval from the prime minister for all delegated appointments or suspensions. On the other hand, the same decree stipulates that ministerial decisions taken outside the indicated framework will not meet with the prime minister's approval and will be considered null and void.

It is worth recalling that the prime minister had requested all ministers to prepare a full plan for cleansing the administrative apparatus, including the judiciary, according to the criteria of competence, integrity, and loyalty to the state. This ongoing process will continue to be transparent and free of any haste, and will be achieved in every sector to enable the public administration to carry out its duties in serving citizens under the best conditions. In this context, it has been decided that the measures taken by the Justice Ministry toward some judges, and which have been deemed unfair, hasty, and high-handed, will be overruled.

Ali Kafi Receives Moroccan Envoy 17 Nov

LD1711135592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] At the Republican Palace this morning Higher State Council [HSC] Chairman Ali Kafi received Ahmed Benaouda, the adviser and envoy of Moroccan King King Hassan II. Following the meeting, the Moroccan envoy made a statement to the press and replied to a question by our radio correspondent, Jubisa Khalfawi as follows:

[Begin recording] [Benaouda] As you are aware, there is a distinguished relationship between Morocco and Algeria and between the chairman and the king. This amity and relationship are based on their common views and stem from serving our beloved Maghreb and the land of the Arabs and Islam. Undoubtedly, you journalists are fully aware of the current situation in the Arab world and the rifts afflicting it because of the development of events in recent years.

This state of affairs demands consultation, deliberation, exchange of views and work so that we may make a stride forward for the good of our country and for our Arab and Islamic nation. This is the aim of my visit. Fortunately, I have found a great harmony between the views of his excellency the chairman and His Majesty King Hassan II. This makes me happy, because the unification of the Moroccan and Algerian views provides an impetus for work on the bilateral level of the two countries as well as on the level of the Arab Maghreb and the Arab World.

[Khalfawi] Mr. Benaouda, will there be a meeting between the Moroccan monarch and the Algerian HSC?

[Benaouda] This is an appropriate question because the king has repeatedly invited the chairman, who promised to respond and pay a visit to us. We, in Morocco, await this visit on all levels. [end recording]

Journalists Sentenced for Slander, Defamation

LD1711174492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The Algiers court's chamber on journalists' infringements today handed down four prison sentences on a defamation charge. Only one of them is enforceable.

The first sentence is one month imprisonment in absentia on Nekach Mohamed Sgher, publication official at EL-BADIL which belongs to the Democratic Movement for the Renewal of Algeria, on a charge of slandering the former director general of ENAPAL for an article published in the newspaper entitled "The official slept on the table during a conference at the French bank Credit Lyonnais."

The other sentences were two months suspended prison sentences on Ahmed Isawi, journalist at EL-KHABAR, Benaissma, former editor of the newspaper, Mohamed Taher Mesaoudi and Reda Bekat, both journalists at EL-WATAN newspaper, and its editor Omar Belhouchet on a defamation charge. Qrin El-Id, member of the Arab Islamic Unity Party, was fined 500 dinars on charge of slandering the party chairman Ali Zaghdoud.

Egypt

Interior Minister Notes Security Measures

NC1611164992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has said that Egypt will not allow its security to deteriorate and will remain a bastion of peace and stability. Musa said that tourism is continuing without interruption and that Egypt will not tolerate any threat to tourism.

Speaking at a meeting of the People's Assembly Culture, Information, and Tourism Committee, Musa said that security measures on the country's roads have been tightened, noting that there is one armed police vehicle for every 5 kilometers of road between al-Minya and Luxor. These cars are equipped to fight terrorism and provide security for tourist groups, he said. The minister added that four armed planes are currently in al-Minya airport, ready to take part in the fight against terrorism.

Interior Minister Musa said that the Tourism Ministry has provided 20 new patrol vehicles to help protect tourism. He said that in addition to the precautions taken to protect tourists, citizens should assist the state in its efforts.

All the individuals wanted in connection with the recent incidents have been arrested and have confessed that

their goal was to harm tourism, Musa said, adding that those arrested are young men. He also said that foreign financing is involved in the recent incidents, noting that certain centers abroad actively train terrorists.

At the end of the meeting, the committee members called for tougher measures to confront all forms of extremism and terrorism and to maintain law and order in the country. They also called for amending the law on juveniles, so as to allow the prosecution of those under the age of 18. The members also recommended the formation of private security firms to protect tourist groups and called for more funds to be allocated to the police force.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1559 GMT on 14 November carries a similar report citing the interior minister as saying: "Members of the organization that has been recently uncovered, who are currently on trial in Alexandria, have confirmed that they were trained abroad and that they finance their operations by robbing jewelry shops in Egypt. They also admitted to receiving funds from abroad. The minister said that there have been 67 attempts to send infiltrators across Egypt's borders since August 1990."]

Discusses Attack on German Tourists

NC1411190292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has expressed regret over the recent attack in which six German tourists were injured. He said that after the incident President Mubarak contacted him immediately to ask about the health of the tourists and to assure himself that their injuries were not fatal. President Mubarak also issued instructions for helicopters to fly immediately to Qina carrying specialist doctors to provide the best medical care for the German tourists.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Musa said that this noble gesture by President Mubarak was greatly appreciated by the German tourists, despite their serious condition. It also helped ease the impact of their shock. The German tourists said that such an incident could happen anywhere in the world.

Musa expressed regret over this criminal attack on the German tourists. He said that the state, represented by President Mubarak, and all Egyptian people feel great sadness and regret over this criminal attack, which runs counter to Egypt's nature as a host country that welcomes tourists and guests of all nationalities.

Musa described the perpetrators of the incidents as irresponsible people who belong to certain groups and hands who do not understand anything and who harm the economy and the state as a whole with their irresponsible behavior. He explained that the government in general and the Interior Ministry in particular have intensified their measures to secure tourist areas and routes. He expressed the hope that such regrettable incidents will not be repeated, indicating that this does not come about by wishful thinking alone but through a studied and planned security action so that all tourists of various nationalities will be safe throughout their stay in Egypt.

The interior minister also said that the state will not stand by in the face of these criminal acts, indicating that laws will be amended and security measures stepped up. He noted that the departments that secure the tourist groups and sites have a high level of training and that armament procedures and communications and transport have been improved. The state pays great attention to this area.

The interior minister cited President Mubarak's speech to parliament today in which he stressed the need to find solutions to halt this attempt to undermine Egypt's economy, security, and stability.

Musa announced: We are perfectly aware that the aim of these criminal acts is not to target people of particular nationalities but to spread confusion, panic, and instability and ruin the Egyptian economy. He denounced the recent regrettable acts and said they are perpetrated by irresponsible, unenlightened people who do not understand the serious implications of what they are doing.

Musa asked: In whose interest do these individuals carry out their acts? What do they want? I assure the German public that all Egyptian people of all sects and positions denounce, reject, and condemn this unenlightened and irresponsible behavior.

He pointed out that those who took part in capturing two of the culprits who committed this criminal act were Egyptian citizens, both policemen and civilians. He added: As interior minister, I offer my regrets to the German people, specifically to those who were injured in the incident.

Musa expressed hope that such attacks will not be repeated against future tourists who come to Egypt to view its civilization, historical sites, and its people's hospitality and nobility, whether they are from Germany or any other country.

Musa praised Egyptian-German cooperation in combating terrorism and narcotics, noting that the two countries' relationship is strong and longstanding. He referred to a prominent feature of this relationship that is illustrated by the cooperation and exchange of expertise and data between the two countries' security agencies and the protocol they have on this issue which focuses chiefly on terrorism and illegal drugs. He cited in this connection the meeting two months ago between officials in charge of the narcotics departments in both countries. He said that Germany allocated some grants to train officers and personnel working in the antinarcotics fields in Egypt and other African countries.

The interior minister expressed his thanks and appreciation to the German Government for assisting the anti-narcotics effort in Egypt both by offering training and supplying sophisticated equipment. He said this assistance primarily benefits humanity because it helps to combat a destructive scourge.

Tourism Minister Warns Against 'Too Much Security'

NC1611175192 Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, Nov 16 (AFP)—Tourism Minister Fu'ad Sultan warned Monday that too much security in the wake of the attacks on tourists in Egypt could also scare off visitors. "Stepping up measures to ensure the security of tourists could lead them to think security was lacking," Sultan said in the Cairo newspaper AL-WAFD.

On Saturday, Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa announced a plan "to boost the system of security" in southern Egypt, a stronghold of Muslim extremists and the scene of attacks in the last two months.

But Sultan said he opposed the deployment of security guards to protect tourist buses. "Such measures will scare off tourists," he warned.

The tourism minister was however in favour of extra measures in remote regions, such as the decision to use helicopters and police water patrols for Nile cruises to the archaeological sites south of Cairo. [passage omitted]

Committee Says 'Foreign Powers' Aid Terrorism

NC1611160392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—The Consultative Council's Arab, Foreign Affairs, and National Security Committee, met today under the chairmanship of Dr. Mufid Shihab and issued a statement urging all patriotic forces to pay due attention to the terrorism issue. The statement said that those who carry out terrorist acts to undermine Egypt's reputation must be firmly confronted.

The committee, which issued the statement after an in-depth discussion of the comprehensive speech President Muhammad Husni Mubarak delivered at the inauguration of the parliamentary term, said that attempts to undermine Egypt's domestic stability have reached an unconventional [ghayr taqlidiyah] stage in which organized terrorist groups are playing a dangerous role and acting in an unprecedented manner. It added that reactions to these attempts must also be unconventional and must be accurately planned to avoid exacerbating the situation.

The statement adds: The goals and implications of the recent operations exceed the perpetrators' capabilities. This indicates that there are well-known foreign powers encouraging the operations and irresponsible domestic forces that are creating a volatile climate.

The committee continues: If terrorism is strengthened and develops, just as President Mubarak said in his speech, it will bring terrible consequences to investment and tourism and perhaps other economic spheres. It will also hurt democracy, political party activity, and freedom of expression and of the press.

The statement announces: Egypt has considerable power to control matters with its constitutional institutions, political organizations, popular forces, and public figures. It has a police apparatus that shoulders its role and responsibilities and which deserves every possible assistance in connection with its armament and training. It also has Armed Forces that shield the homeland from foreign threats and preserve its domestic stability.

The committee's statement asserts that everyone is responsible for confronting the current situation and adds that this responsibility falls even more on the constitutional bodies, political forces, and the media.

It says that irresolute, unspecific, and negative positions cannot be adopted to confront the problem, particularly because the public's awareness of what is happening has shown that the citizens have taken a positive position against this phenomenon, which threatens their security, livelihood, and their homeland's future.

In conclusion, the committee notes that it is not a coincidence that this heightened terrorist action is happening at a time when Egypt has embarked on a process of economic reform and when Egyptian foreign policy has begun to give Egypt its befitting status in the new world order as a stable and credible country, a country able to make positive contributions and have a positive influence on events.

It says: The committee declares its full support for President Mubarak's position on the attempts to harm the homeland's security and economy and supports his policies and measures to confront the current situation.

Media Denounce Iran for 'Terrorism,' 'Hegemony'

Iran, Sudan Blamed for Bus Attack

NC1711204492 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 92 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] Iran or Sudan or any other gangster state that supports and finances terrorist operations errs if it believes that it is victorious when a group of armed men attacks a bus load of foreign tourists in Egypt, killing some and injuring others.

Reckless adventures come in various shapes and sizes and are easy to commit anytime and anywhere. What hurts the spirit, however, is the image now associated with Islam as being intolerant. The acts make the

Muslim nation seem a bloodthirsty one that neither honors its guests nor applies God's limits.

Tehran has realized that it is an undesirable capital for Cairo. At the same time, Iran's rulers have realized that they cannot have a free hand in the Arabian Gulf as long as Egypt is strong, influential, and has the ability and potential to check Persian expansion and control.

Additionally, perhaps Hasan al-Turabi [reference to the leader of Sudan's National Islamic Front] and his front, which controls things in Sudan and manipulates by remote control what is called the National Salvation government there, are sure that Egypt is capable of disciplining anyone who has the guts to touch Hala'ib and Shalatayn.

Therefore, I tell those and all the others that none of the reckless acts this lost group, which has sold itself at the cheapest price possible, commits will affect Egypt's security, stability, or economy.

Yes. Attacks on tourists have recently increased, and we admit that this may harm tourism in Egypt. But let them know beforehand that we are capable, praise be to God, to rectify events quickly.

Deviation cannot continue under any circumstances. A nation that does its utmost to improve its life will join ranks to prevent evil enemies from sowing the seeds of fragmentation and sedition among its people. Praise be to God, we will never allow the evildoers to attain their base goals.

True jihad lies in entrenching the bases of justice, fairness, goodness, and love. Those who cling to grudges and poisonous attitudes have no links to jihad whatsoever. This is a violation of the teachings of God and his venerable prophet. Of course, everyone knows the punishment of the wanton evildoers and highway robbers.

Iran, Iraq Accused of 'Terrorism'

NC1611201292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Razzaz: "Egypt Rejects the Hegemony Schemes"]

[Text] On examining Arab and international reaction to President Mubarak's speech at the inauguration of the new parliamentary term this week, the Iranian reaction to the president's remarks on terrorism and the recent violence on tourist areas in Upper Egypt was particularly interesting. These acts were individual acts perpetrated by outlaws regardless of their affiliations. These extremist groups are trying to undermine Egyptian security and stability and ruin tourism, an important economic source of revenue for the Egyptian national revenue. Revenue from the tourist industry has risen to 3 billion pounds, and it is an unprecedented success.

It is noteworthy that the Iranian and Iraqi reactions to the speech were similar. Both regimes use the same methods of violence, terrorism, and violation of human rights. The ayatollahs' regime in Iran and the Baghdad dictator's regime use the same merciless method of treating the fraternal Iranian and Iraqi nations. This method has nothing to do with Islam; however, these two regimes hide behind religion. The Iranian regime alleges that it is the bearer of a message and a revolution; the Iraqi regime claims descent from the prophet's household although their practices totally contradict Islam's methods and tolerance. Many are the sins that these two regimes committed against Iranian and Iraqi Muslims.

Hence came President Mubarak's warning to these regimes, which rely on terrorism and violence to achieve their objectives. He asserted that Egypt totally rejects schemes linked to hegemony and overlordship and warned Iran's rulers not to further schemes that seek to intervene in the internal affairs of Arab and Islamic countries. There is conclusive proof of Iranian involvement in Algeria to the point where the Algerian people were embroiled in a confrontation approaching civil war. Iranian hegemony intentionally sought to ruin the Algerian economy by inciting Algerian extremists to refuse to deal with international institutions, thus damaging tourism, an industry on which Algeria used to depend because of its proximity to Europe and its ability to attract tourists.

The schemes of Iranian hegemony extended to Tunisia via the Ennahda movement, which represents Tunisian extremists. After other countries intervened, Tunisia promptly severed ties with Iran. Conclusive proof exists about the Iranian regime's links to hegemony schemes since 1979.

After the Egyptian leadership declared in front of the people's representatives that no leniency will be shown to any group seeking to undermine the country's security and stability, the campaign of calumny operated by Tehran and Baghdad's perfidious media escalated. The Egyptian leadership has said that it is the responsibility of both the government and the public to confront the crimes against Egypt's guests. These crimes against tourism and the Egyptian economy are aimed against the interests of the entire nation. The Egyptian people are able to confront these criminal schemes of hate and agentry which are aimed against them in a way similar to the earlier scheme against fraternal Algeria. The Egyptian leadership, government, and people are fully aware of the hegemony schemes. By firm confrontation the Egyptian people will succeed in cutting off the terrorist hands.

Iran's hegemony schemes and the Iraqi dictator's calumny campaigns cannot affect a nation that rallies around its leadership in a spirit of mutual loyalty. The leadership and government provide the true facts to an appreciative public. This was illustrated by the people's and army's solidarity with the government and leadership in confronting the effect of the earthquake in a way that aroused the world's admiration. At the same time, an outlaw minority perpetrated sins against Egypt's

guests in the tourist areas. This rebellious minority will receive its firm and deterrent punishment at the hands of the Egyptian people, who denounce these criminal acts against noble Egypt.

Media Campaign on Terrorism Criticized

NC1111212392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Motives of Iranian Campaign of Lies Against Egypt"]

[Text] Iranian media have launched a feverish campaign of lies against Egypt, reporting totally fabricated events with absolutely no link to Egypt and its principles.

We will prove that this situation that Tehran is reporting about is completely associated with the atmosphere in which Iran has been living since 1979 under the despotic ayatollah rule, which used the cloak and turban for cheap trade in religion.

Foremost is terrorizing the Iranian people and violating their rights through various inhuman practices ranging from cases of extreme torture to murder inside Iranian detention camps and prisons. The approximately 4 million Iranians who departed from the warmth of the homeland in opposition to the ayatollah regime confirm what we are stating.

The only charge against the thousands who fill Iran's prisons is that they refused to drive their children to a war against Iraq. The only reason for this war was a disagreement between two tyrants who were both seeking a pseudoleadership at the expense of their aggrieved nations.

We say that if Iran tries through its trumpets to exploit the isolated terrorist incidents in Egypt—such as the Deyrut incident, whose culprits sought to strike at tourism in Egypt as an important economic resource—this exploitation is cheap by all measures and incompatible with any logic. It is both unacceptable and inconceivable that Egypt or Egyptians should decide to remain a spectator to this terrorism, which threatens its interests and contradicts its values and traditions. This is especially true, because this terrorism is directed mainly toward this hospitable people's reputation and standing and has a negative impact on the Egyptian national economy.

Tourism is one of the Egyptian people's most important resources. Egypt's tourism revenue this year exceeded 3 billion pounds, while world tourism experts expect this figure to rise to 4 billion next year in view of factors attracting tourists, which the government is eager to enhance, such as providing security and safety for Egypt's guests. Egypt has three-quarters of the international antiquities, especially pharaonic, Islamic, and Coptic antiquities. Besides, God has granted Egypt a stable climate. Therefore, firmly confronting terrorism and nipping its sources in the bud are part of a preventive security to ward off these dangers and preserve the vital and national interests of the homeland in which everyone lives under the tolerance of all religions.

It is enough for President Mubarak's rule and Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government to have never confiscated any Egyptian opposition newspaper, no matter what subjects were raised that would later prove that it did not seek any truth in handling that subject.

Despite all this, the government was aloof in intervening in making Egypt's democratic experiment a success and the most flourishing era of its history.

Whoever monitors Egyptian media realizes the positive cooperation between people with conflicting views in all political issues without the least control or domination by the government. Contrary to this is what happens with those who hide behind religion, speak well about freedom in Islam, and inflict the most hideous forms of terrorism, repression, and torture on the Iranian people, all of which are crimes forbidden by Islam.

If the successive Iranian leaders, beginning with the Khomeyni era and ending with the ayatollahs, have failed to export what they metaphorically termed the Islamic revolution—Islam disowns them—due to the Egyptian people's awareness and rejection of terrorism under the cloak of religion, we realize the motives of that ferocious campaign launched by the Iranian deception trumpets against Egypt.

There is an important fact the Tehran rulers should be aware of: Egypt has refused to resume its diplomatic ties with Iran due to Iran's insistence on pursuing a policy of terrorism and exporting it to neighboring countries, as it did with Algeria and Tunisia, and to any place where it can infiltrate. Therefore, it was only natural and logical and even patriotic for Egypt to refuse to deal with Iran, because Egypt does not and will not deal with any dictatorial regime that is based on terrorism, be it the regime in Tehran or in Baghdad.

Government Said Ready for Iranian 'Schemes'

NC1811080692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes on its front page today that all recent signs and developments have revealed that Iran is seeking to become a regional power that will impose its hegemony on the face of the Gulf region by force. It says that this became evident following its occupation of the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra, which belong to the United Arab Emirates. It adds that Iran's rulers have unbridled ambitions to interfere in the course of Middle East events.

AL-AHRAM adds that Iran is playing this role, which is rejected at the regional and international levels, through its persistent attempts to boost its military capabilities.

particularly nuclear, and through its constant interference in regional affairs, especially in the wake of the new alliance between Iran and Khartoum, which the Algerian authorities confirmed on Monday.

AL-AHRAM adds: Egypt is well aware of the dangers of Iranian schemes aimed at destabilizing countries in the region. Egypt has underlined its intention to confront these schemes, which has angered Iran. Regardless of Iran's vulgar attacks on Egypt, Cairo is conscious of the dimensions of its pan-Arab role and is exercising it to protect Egyptian national security and pan-Arab security.

Commentary Decries 'Satanic Ayatollahs'

NC1711173092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Ahmad al-Qasir Commentary: "The People of Iran are Capable of Ending Their Rulers' Criminal Actions"]

[Text] Egypt is a civilized country; its people are noble people who know values, ethics, and principles; Cairo, the home of the holy al-Azhar, is rightly and by the testimony of Muslims everywhere the platform for Islam in the entire world; and its president, Muhammad Husni Mubarak, is a statesman with international credibility and a political standing and is known throughout the world as a supporter of justice and legitimacy in the face of the forces of repression, aggression, and backwardness. Because of all this, Egypt has persistently refused, through President Mubarak, to restore its relations with the fascist, terrorist regime ruling the Muslim people of Iran with steel and fire. This regime is hiding behind the mantle of Islam to repress its people, who have been facing extreme hardships for many years, and to persist in the policy of arrogance, extortion, threats, and flagrant interference in the affairs of others.

Mubarak's Egypt refused to put its hand in the hands of the butcher and bloodthirsty rulers of Tehran due to its care for Islamic principles, which reject violence and terrorism, and out of its respect for its principles and the distinguished position it enjoys in the Arab, international, and Islamic arenas. How can this be understood by people who live in the caves of the past and behave like gangsters in ruling their oppressed people and in dealing with other countries. It was not strange, therefore, for those blood-sucking rulers to lose their senses and start saying things that have no place except among gangsters and highway robbers. These rulers of the party of Satan have destroyed Iran's economic, military, and human capabilities; have wasted their people's wealth in foolish military adventures; have become a curse to the Islamic nation; have distorted the picture of Islam in the world to the point where the word Islam has become synonymous with terrorism because of the criminal actions of these satanic ayatollah [ayat al-shaytan] charlatans. They have started attacking the Muslim and civilized people of Egypt and their faithful leadership.

These backward rulers, with whom the people of Iran have been afflicted, the misled and misleading rulers who trade with religion, are not aware of the changes that have taken place in the world, do not understand the language of the age, and have not realized that the era of tyrants has ended for good and that the era of peoples has spread throughout the world. These satanic ayatollahs and their misleading propaganda trumpets have resorted to the language of gangsters in their attacks on the honest Arabs and Muslims. Their savage behavior is not strange. The entire world, led by Muslims everywhere, knows the reality of the ruling gang in Iran, as no Muslim Arab people have escaped their harm. They left the affairs of their oppressed people and sent agents and mercenaries to stir strife and cause sabotage and destruction in Islamic countries on the pretense that they are the protectors of Islam, which has nothing to do with them.

By their crimes, these backward satanic ayatollahs have terrorized the security of the Muslims everywhere, summoning the denunciation and disgust of the entire international community for the unreasonable barbaric behavior of these charlatans, who are ruling their people with terrorism and an iron fist. The Tehran rulers' crimes against humanity since they seized power in Iran are innumerable. The records of the United Nations and human rights organization are the best proof of what we say. They, in fact, are going too far in their criminal and unethical action, which is rejected by the entire international community.

Can anyone forget what these rulers have recently done to the United Arab Emirates and how these satanic ayatollahs are competing with Iraq's tyrant in extortion and saber-rattling and in raising slogans against all the Arab peoples of the Gulf? In doing all this, they are committing a flagrant violation of the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

Egypt refuses to go down to the low level of the Tehran rulers' impudence, demagogy, saber-rattling, interference in the affairs of others, and exporting of terrorism and agents. Noble, civilized, and Islamic Egypt—leadership and people—warns the ruling gang in Tehran against playing with fire. Egypt is able to contain these dwarfs and deal with them in the method they understand well. Mubarak's Egypt will never abandon its principles in supporting legitimacy and justice everywhere against the forces of evil and oppression. It will continue to shoulder its pan-Arab responsibilities toward the peoples of the Arab nation and will not pay attention to the falsehoods voiced by the satanic ayatollahs and their misleading propaganda trumpets.

To the Muslim people of Iran we say: You have had enough oppression, starvation, humiliation, and misleading at the hands of those charlatans who have no other concern but to retain power, even over the bodies of the children of Iran. The time has come for you to put an end to this extremely black chapter of Iran's history. This can only be done by overthrowing the butchers of Tehran, the satanic ayatollahs who have spread evil on

earth, and thus they deserve torture. O rebels of Iran, when will you save yourselves, country, and Islamic nation—nay, the entire world—from the evils of this misled and misleading group?

Musa Discusses Peace Process, Gulf Tension

PM1611153392 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 7 Nov 92 p 20

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Arturo Arsalte in Madrid; date not given]

[Text] [Arsalte] Do you believe that the outcome of the U.S. election will in any way influence the progress of the Middle East peace process?

[Musa] No, I do not believe so. The Democrats' and Republicans' policies are the same, although the current U.S. Administration has worked very hard to contribute to this process.

[Arsalte] How do you assess the progress of the Middle East peace conference?

[Musa] The process is alive and well. We must continue to work to preserve that atmosphere and to secure peace and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights.

[Arsalte] Could you give a date when the problem will have been resolved?

[Musa] No, but I hope that we will reach an agreement in a matter of months, at least as far as Palestinian autonomy is concerned.

[Arsalte] A few days ago Israel and Jordan reached a preliminary peace agreement between the two countries in what has been interpreted as the most important step since the negotiations opened in Madrid.

[Musa] This is a draft, a step in the right direction, and proceeds on the same lines which will lead to the other countries and to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and to the restoration of peace in the area. [sentence as published] We hope that peace will come more quickly in the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, because that is the most important thing—that the Palestinians recover their land.

[Arsalte] Has the conference's new course been influenced by the change of government in Israel?

[Musa] Yes. It was important. Shamir's government was not very cooperative with the peace process. If Shamir had remained in charge of the Israeli Government, it would have been bad for the process, but now there is a new government which is clear about its desire to make progress in the peace process.

[Arsalte] There have recently been attacks by fundamentalist groups in Egypt. What is your government's stance?

[Musa] Democracy cannot tolerate terrorism or the use of violence. The government must and will be very tough with the terrorists.

[Arsalte] Do you believe that there could be links between the terrorist groups in Egypt and those which are committing attacks in Algeria?

[Musa] There is a great difference. There are terrorists in London, in Ireland, and elsewhere, but the origins and strength of the movement in Egypt and Algeria bear no resemblance.

[Arsalte] The situation in the Gulf seems unstable. There have been problems between Qatar and Saudi Arabia and between Iran and the emirates, and the United States has sent a nuclear submarine to the area following Teheran's purchase of two submarines from Russia. Is there a danger of a new conflict?

[Musa] Yes, I believe that the Gulf is still a potential area of problems and tension, especially because of what happened between Iran and the emirates. That policy is definitely damaging and is causing a rise in tension. Let us hope that the problem will be resolved through dialogue.

[Arsalte] Following its confrontation with the West over the Lockerbie affair, Libya seems to be trying to reestablish dialogue.

[Musa] Egypt is actively trying to help Libya reach an agreement, which we hope will be achieved in the near future.

[Arsalte] What is the state of relations between Egypt and Spain?

[Musa] It is a very positive and constructive relationship. We have matters of mutual interest—especially the situation in the Mediterranean. We have called for the setting up of a Mediterranean forum, in which we have Spain's cooperation. Spain is an important Mediterranean country which enjoys the respect of the Arab countries—of everyone. I have told Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and the foreign minister that now that Spain is a UN Security Council member and has a global role to play. [sentence as published]

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Message to Mubarak

NC1711162592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat stopped over at Cairo airport for one hour today while on his way back to Tunis from Khartoum. The Palestinian president was welcomed and seen off at the airport by Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Cairo.

The Palestinian ambassador said that President 'Arafat gave him an urgent oral message to convey to President Hosni Mubarak. He said that he briefed president

'Arafat on recent developments in the peace talks, which took place after the Palestinian president's recent visit to Egypt, which was followed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Cairo.

Results of 2d Round of Local Elections Announced

NC1111093192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Nov 92

[Text] Run-off elections to choose popular and local councils in some constituencies and first-round elections in others were held in several governorates yesterday. The results have been announced as follows:

National Democratic Party [NDP] tickets won in the Misr al-Qadimah Constituency in Cairo, the al-Manawat and Shibin al-Qanatir Constituencies in al-Jizah, the Faysal and 'Ataqah Constituencies in Suez, Bush in Bush District, the al-Jamarik Constituency in Alexandria, and the Port Fu'ad Constituency in Port Said. The al-Wafd Party won in Port Said's al-Sharq and al-Gharb Constituencies.

The NDP won individual seats in the Quwaysina and Birkat al-Sab' Constituencies of al-Minufiyah Governorate. The Greens Party won the individual seat in the governorate's Sirs al-Layyanah township.

The NDP won the council seats of al-Zaqaziq's Hayy Awwal Constituency of al-Sharqiyah Governorate. Al-Wafd won the Bilbays Constituency. The final result in al-Sharqiyah Governorate shows the NDP winning 199 constituencies, al-Wafd five, and the Labor Party four. The NDP also won all the seats of the al-Sharqiyah Governorate's local council.

The elections in (al-Qilini) village were postponed.

Libya

General People's Congress Session Meets

Elects Committee Secretaries

LD1711214292

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1456 GMT on 17 November begins a live relay of the afternoon session of the General People's Congress extraordinary session on the election of secretaries. The relay begins by showing delegates taking their seats. There is no commentary at this point; patriotic songs are played instead.

At 1537 GMT, the announcer begins to introduce the proceedings. He notes the significance of the free, democratic, and direct choice of Libyan masses. At 1540 GMT, the General People's Congress secretary begins addressing the delegates. He says that nominations have been put forward for selection and that this was carried out in a democratic and fair way. He calls on the participants to be organized, responsible, and civilized in their deliberations because these proceedings are being followed by the outside world.

The selection procedure then begins with choosing the secretary of the General People Committee of Unity, and various names are read for the delegates to vote on.

The first speaker, giving his opinion on this list, discloses that there is a special telephone in an adjoining test where instructions are received from some unknown quarters on the proposition of names of candidates. He says that this contradicts the spirit of Libyan democracy and revolutionary thinking. This speaker is interrupted by the chair but is supported by warm applause from some delegates.

The chairman then announces that the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity is to be Jumu'a al-Mahdi al-Farrani.

After the election of the secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, delegates begin the election of the secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. The chairman announces that 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir has been elected to this post.

The secretaries of other general people's committee are then elected, as follows:

General People's Committee for Maritime Resources: Miftah Muhammad Kabbish;

General People's Committee for Industry: Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi;

General People's Committee for Energy: Abdallah al-Badri;

General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security: Ibrahim Bakkar.

At 1635 GMT the proceedings are recessed for a 20-minute break.

At 1703 GMT the extraordinary session resumes to select the secretaries for the remaining people's committees. The delegates are unable to agree on the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, Trade and Finance because of disagreement on the qualifications of the proposed candidates. Delegates can be heard accusing one another of tribalism and nepotism.

At 1821 GMT the election of further secretaries is announced as follows:

General People's Committee for Planning, Trade and Finance: Dr Muhammad Bayt al-Mal;

General People's Committee for Sectors, Tourism and Transport: Engineer Mubarak Abdallah al-Shamikh;

At 1907 GMT the Congress proceedings are recessed and coverage is broken.

Libyan Television resumes coverage at 2008 GMT and the following announcement of elections to the General People's Congress committees is made:

General People's Committee for Agrarian Reform, Land Reclamation and Animal Resources: Dr 'Isa Abd al-Kafi al-Sayd;

General People's Committee for Health and Social Security: Dr al-Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmudi;

General People's Committee for Education, Youth, Scientific Research and Vocational Training: Ma'ruq Muhammad Ma'ruq;

General People's Committee for Information, Culture and Jamahiri Mobilization: Ali al-Sha'ri.

At 2137 GMT the session adjourns due to scuffles taking place as a result of disagreement among delegates. The General People's Congress secretary announces that the session will resume Wednesday 18 November 0700 GMT.

Durdah Retains Post; New Secretary General Chosen

LD1811120093

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at at 0811 GMT on 18 November begins a live relay of the General People's Congress [GPC], which resumes its extraordinary session in Sirt at that time. Proceedings are started by GPC Secretary General 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Sawsa', who says that following the election of members of the General People's Committee, it is time to select the secretary of the General People's Committee (the equivalent of the prime minister).

The GPC then elects Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah by a large majority as secretary of the General People's Committee. Muhammad Zarug Rajab is elected secretary of the General People's Committee for Supervision and Follow-up. The GPC then considers a proposal by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice to appoint 'Abd-al-Raziq Sawsa' as prosecutor general, but this causes an uproar. (Sawsa' does not chair proceedings at this point.) The chairman of the session calls for calm and asks the floor to express their views one by one. More names are proposed: Bashir Khalifah Thamir, Khalifah al-Qadi, and Mustafa al-Shatawi. The secretary of the People's Committee for Justice reminds the audience that the proposal of the name of the prosecutor general is by law the prerogative of the justice committee, not the General People's Congress.

At 0904 GMT the session adjourns; broadcasting resumes at 1001 GMT. The GPC secretary general announces the resignation of the GPC Secretariat, and apologizes for any mistakes or errors committed against any member of the GPC or the General People's Committee. He then thanks Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for his contributions. The audience applauds and shouts slogans.

At 1011 GMT audio reception is lost for five minutes.

At 1015 GMT a new panel is seen seated, and an official tells GPC members that if they have confidence in the this provisional secretariat, it will then take control of supervising the promotion and election of the new GPC Secretariat. The audience agrees. The official then reminds the audience that the selection of the prosecutor general is by law the prerogative of the justice committee, not the GPC. He invites the GPC to promote names for the selection of the new GPC secretary general. Another official from the panel calls for calm and order. The GPC members start to promote names for the post of GPC secretary general; some of those named who are among the audience decline their nominations. GPC members then elect Al-Zanati Muhammad al-Zanati as secretary general of the GPC. At 1054 GMT the session adjourns until 1500 GMT.

Bahrain

Opposition Rejects Proposed Consultative Council

NC1711101492 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Nov 92 p 12

[Text] AL-NAHAR has received a statement from the "national and Islamic forces" in Bahrain rejecting Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah's proposal to appoint a 30-member Consultative Council [Majlis Istishari]. The statement says that "this step, announced by the country's ruler, does not respond to the general popular demand, is rejected by all national and Islamic forces, and is a flagrant violation of the Constitution, which is a covenant between the ruler and his subjects."

The statement adds that "the regime in Bahrain must respond to the demand of the people and their national and Islamic forces and must comply with the spirit of the age. It must create political relaxation in the country, prepare for general elections for the National Council, and reactivate the Constitution."

The statement appeals to "all who support the cause of democracy and human rights to express solidarity with the Bahraini people in their struggle to achieve their rights and legitimate demands, above all the creation of comprehensive political relaxation that will result in the release of all political prisoners and the dignified return of exiles, who under pressure from existing political conditions have been compelled to leave the country; the closure of their dossiers once and for all; and the establishment of wide- ranging national dialogue."

The statement is signed by the "Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain," the "Bahraini National Liberation Movement," and the "Popular Front in Bahrain."

Kuwait

French Foreign Minister Dumas Continues Visit

Meets With Amir

LD1611123692 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0948 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Nov (KUNA)—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, this morning met with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

The amir's court did not disclose what took place during the meeting, which was also attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, acting prime minister and foreign minister, and by a number of senior Kuwaiti officials.

Dumas arrived here earlier today on a further leg of his tour of the region.

Holds News Conference

LD1611184992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1321 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 16 Nov, KUNA—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas has praised the efforts of Kuwait to bolster the cohesion of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. At a news conference held here today, he announced his country's support for the efforts of the Kuwaiti Government, led by Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, to remove the obstacles confronting the settlement of the border problems between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Dumas described the efforts of the Kuwaiti mediation between Qatar and Saudi Arabia as "good efforts for the bolstering of the cohesion of the GCC, which France considers as an indispensable element in guaranteeing political and strategic stability in the region." [passage omitted]

French Minister Dumas called upon the Iraqi regime to commit itself to the implementation of all the Security Council resolutions in connection with ending the Kuwait liberation war, including the release of all the Kuwaiti POWs and the scrapping of all arms of mass destruction possessed by the Baghdad regime.

He said that "it is not possible to examine the issue of lifting the sanctions imposed on Iraq, whatever the suffering resulting from them, as long as there is no full commitment to the Security Council resolutions by Iraq so that situations such as those that took place in the past do not happen again," referring to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Dumas expressed the hope that the necessary measures will be taken to release all the Kuwaiti POWs detained in the prisons of the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted] He said "I make an appeal in the name of France for all necessary measures to be rapidly taken for their release."

Dumas stated that during his meetings with Kuwaiti officials, they expressed their concern about the possible partitioning of Iraq due to the Security Council's banning of flights by Iraqi fighter aircraft over northern and southern Iraq. In connection with this, he said: I have emphasized to the Kuwaiti Government that the measures taken by the Security Council, for which France had voted as it had taken part in their drafting, were not aimed at partitioning Iraq in any way. Their aim is to provide humanitarian protection to an unarmed Iraqi population against the cruel practices inflicted on them by the Iraqi regime in northern and southern Iraq.

He pointed out that France fully distinguishes between the Iraqi regime and the Iraqi people, and he affirmed that these measures would stop when the circumstances that had made them necessary were removed. In an answer to a question on the tension resulting from the fact that the Iranian forces had occupied Abu Musa island and from Iran's buying of Russian submarines, Dumas said that France wanted the issue of the disputed

islands to be resolved through dialogue and peaceful solutions based on international law. He further said that concerning surplus armament in the region, France had already declared its support for the guaranteeing of stability in the Gulf region in the political field, as well as strategic security, because it is a sensitive area.

He affirmed that one should take into account the fact that excessive armament of one side must not affect stability in the region. With regard to defense cooperation between Kuwait and France, the French Foreign Minister stressed that his country would remain very vigilant in light of the current situation in the region, where matters have not settled down yet. Dumas said that there were a number of agreements in the areas of defense cooperation and equipment imports. He pointed out that discussions were indeed under way regarding the purchase of arms from France, but they interested first and foremost the Ministry of Defense and the French companies.

On the level of bilateral relations between the two countries, Dumas reaffirmed France's determination to further develop its relations with Kuwait and said: we hope that our relations will be more prosperous in the cultural and economic domains. He added: We also hope that the French companies based in Kuwait or those wishing to come to Kuwait continue developing their activities in various domains, particularly those where France is distinguished.

Concerning the tragic situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the French foreign minister said that an initiative would be taken soon to put an end to the conflict there. He announced that a meeting is imminent in London to discuss this issue. He referred to the concern expressed by the Kuwaiti Government over the vicious attack against the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and he stressed that France fully agreed with Kuwait on the need for finding an urgent solution to this issue.

Concludes Visit

LD1611185192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1517 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Kuwait, 16 November (KUNA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Kuwait today on his way to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia following a visit to the state of Kuwait, which lasted a few hours.

Dumas, who is on a tour in the Gulf region including Qatar, Bahrain, and Kuwait so far, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, met this morning with the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

He also met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, and discussed with him bilateral relations between the two countries and the latest developments in the Gulf.

Decree Issued Suspending Publications of Papers

PM1711160392 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Nov 92 pp 1, 8

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Information Ministry Issues Two Decisions: Suspension of Publication of SAWT AL-KUWAYT and AL-FAJR AL-JADID"]

[Text] Kuwait, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has issued two decisions:

The first, to suspend publication of the newspaper AL-FAJR AL-JADID as of 31 December 1992.

The second, to suspend the subsidy to, and the printing in Kuwait of, the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT.

Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah said that during the brutal iraqi occupation of our country, the Kuwaiti Government needed to publish a daily newspaper to reflect the view of the Kuwait people, who were suffering the calamities of occupation. As a result, the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT was published abroad with government subsidy.

The information minister added: After Kuwait's liberation and the restoration of legitimacy, and due to the occupation's looting of Kuwaiti media services and the disappearance of local newspapers as a result of this occupation, the Information Ministry has decided to publish a daily newspaper as an informational means for the Kuwaiti people to fill the media vacuum inside Kuwait. And now that normal life has bee restored to all local newspapers, these two decisions have been issued.

The information minister added that Information Ministry Under Secretary Hamad Yusuf al-Rumi has been entrusted with forming two committees to settle all financial, administrative, and legal matters resulting from suspending the publication of AL-FAJR AL-JADID's and the subsidy to SAWT AL-KUWAYT.

In his statement the information minister praised the distinguished role which the two newspapers played during the period of their publication. He also praised the efforts of the two newspapers' editorial staff and all other staff for all the efforts they made to publish and prepare these two newspaper.

The following come in Minister Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah's decision:

Ministerial Decision No. 842/1992 To Suspend the Subsidy to the Newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT and Its Printing in Kuwait:

The information minister.

Taking cognizance of the Law No. 3 of 1961 concerning the issuance of the publications and publishing law and the laws amending it.

The Law by decree No. 12/1992 concerning setting up the Printing and Publishing Establishment,

And the fax dated 1 September 1992 sent to the information minister by the London-registered Kuwaiti Company for Advertising and Research Ltd concerning the transfer of SAWT AL-KUWAYT's ownership to the General Printing and Publishing Establishment, has decided the following:

Article I: To suspend the subsidy paid by the state for SAWT AL-KUWAYT's publication as of the date of this decision.

Article II: The Information Ministry under secretary is entrusted with forming a committee to settle all financial, administrative, and legal matters resulting from suspending the subsidy paid by the state for SAWT AL-KUWAYT's publication.

Article III: To suspend printing of the newspaper in question in Kuwait and to settle the matters resulting from that.

Article IV: The under secretary, the director general of the General Printing and Publishing Establishment, and the newspaper's officials must implement this decision. It is to be implemented as of the date of its issuance and to be published in the official gazette.

16 Nov Issue Said To Be Last

PM1811111492 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Nov 92 p1

[Unattributed report: "Sudden Decision Ending SAWT AL-KUWAYT Funding and Suspending Publication of AL-FAJR AL-JADID"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Kuwaiti Information Ministry yesterday decided to suspend publication of AL-FAJR AL-JADID which appeared days after the Iraqi forces were driven out of Kuwait. It also decided to stop the aid for SAWT AL-KUWAYT which was published in London after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and which has been the government's mouthpiece for the past two years.

According to press sources at SAWT AL-KUWAYT in London, the paper's management has told its employees that today's, that is Monday's, edition will be its last, but a spokesman for the paper has refused to confirm or deny that. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti sources say that no decision has been issued suspending publication of SAWT AL-KUWAYT and that the decision issued only stops financial aid for it and stops its daily printing in Kuwait because it has no license for that. Because the decision was sudden it would be impossible to continue publication without the government's financial aid or an alternative source of aid, according to a source close to the paper's management. [passage omitted]

Deputy 'Abdallah al-Nayburi, representing the Democratic Grouping, last week questioned the information minister about the state's direct and indirect links with SAWT AL-KUWAYT and AL-FAJR AL-JADID. He asked "does the state own or finance the two papers? Were these two papers licensed, and, if so, when and at whose request? Was that done in accordance with the provisions of the law, and how much money has the government given these two papers since their publication?" [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti sources say that [SAWT AL-KUWAYT Chief Editor] Dr. Muhammad al-Rumayhi will retain his post as chief editor of the cultural magazine AL-'ARABI which is currently published in Cairo. It has been rumored that there is an intention to move it to Kuwait as was the case before the invasion. It is not known yet whether or not Yusuf al-'Ulayyan, chief editor of AL-FAJR AL-JADID, will be given a new post at the Information Ministry. [passage omitted]

Oman

Minister on Gulf Security, Joint Arab Action

JN1811085692 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Nov 92 pp 1, 16

[By 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Murnani in Muscat]

[Excerpts] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas has hailed the strong relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

In an interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B in Muscat, he said there are distinguished relations between His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and his brother His Majesty King Husayn. These relations are based on mutual confidence and understanding of the region's issues and the international situation. [passage omitted]

He said that his country seeks effective joint Arab action that benefits the Arab nation and heals its wounds.

On the foreign military presence in the Arabian Gulf, and responsibility for security in the Gulf, he said his government believes that security in the region is an indivisible whole. He added that as long as this principle prevails, then there should be cooperation and coordination among all parties that seek to maintain their interests in a region where the entire world has interests. We have always sought to convince others that their interests are protected without undermining our own interests.

He said he hoped the Washington negotiations will realize progress toward reaching a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international resolutions.

On ending the sufferings of the Iraqi people as a result of the international siege imposed on them, he said this issue is related to the Security Council and the Iraqi Government.

Qatar

French Foreign Minister Dumas Arrives in Doha

Meets Heir Apparent

JN1411131592 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Doha, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, met with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in Doha today.

The Qatari News Agency said the two officials discussed a number of important Gulf and international issues of common concern. They also exchanged viewpoints on the ways and means to increase bilateral cooperation in the various fields.

The French minister arrived in Doha earlier today as part of his tour of some states in the region.

Confers With Amir

JN1411133792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Doha, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas here today. Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, French Ambassador Andre Janier, and the French minister's delegation attended the audience.

The Qatari News Agency said the talks dealt with the overall situation in the region on both the Arab and international levels, including the Middle East peace process. The talks also touched on the ways to promote friendship and cooperation between Qatar and France in the various domains in the interest of the two countries and two peoples.

Amir Thanks Iran for Regional Stands

NC1711083292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] During his meeting with the Iranian ambassador in Doha, the Qatari amir thanked Tehran for its stances on regional problems. At this meeting, held at the conclusion of the Iranian ambassador's term in Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani referred to the common interests of regional countries and to the need for a common strategy to preserve these interests.

Qatar boycotted the recent session of the defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Saudi forces have occupied Qatar's al-Khafus border post for about two months.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet of Ministers Reviews GCC Meeting

LD1611204392 Riyadh SPA in English 1920 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 16, SPA—The Saudi Council of Ministers today reviewed the outcome on some military matters taken up by a meeting of defence ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which ended its two-day deliberations in Kuwait yesterday.

Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, the minister of defence, aviation and inspector general, who presided the regular weekly session of the cabinet this afternoon at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, gave a summary account of the GCC defence ministers conference.

After the cabinet session, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told Saudi Press Agency that Prince Sultan praised the brotherly spirit that had prevailed during the proceedings of the GCC defence ministers meeting and attributed its accomplishments to fine arrangements made for it by the Kuwaiti authorities and the successful efforts pursued by the Kuwaiti Defence Minister, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah to run the meeting.

Al-Sha'ir said the council reviewed also the most important reports on the latest Arab developments and sharply condemned the escalation of the Israeli attacks on South Lebanon and called on international organizations for immediate interference to stop the repeated Israeli aggression.

The council followed up on-going Middle East peace talks in Washington and repeated also its grave concern over the current plight of the Bosnian people as a result of the Serbian aggression. The council decided to continue the Kingdom's material support for the victims of the war.

Referring to domestic items, al-Sha'ir said the council approved that the secretary and members of the Supreme Military Medical Commission would be involved in the reward stated under the resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 1069, provided that some conditions are met including one which say the number of the concerned members of the commission at the

National Guard Headquarters and the Ministry of Interior will not be more than five including the secretary and that the annual reward should not be more than 30,000 riyals for each case.

The cabinet also endorsed a promotion at grade 14th at the Public Security of the Ministry of Interior.

King Fahd Receives French Foreign Minister Dumas

LD1611225192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 16 Nov (SPA)—In his office at al-Salam Palace today, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Dumas Leaves Jeddah

LD1611234992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2320 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 16 Nov (SPA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Jeddah this evening after a short visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Pakistan Defense Minister Begins Visit 15 Nov

BK1811051392 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Defense minister Ghaus Ali Shah has arrived in Jeddah for talks with leaders of Saudi Arabia. He will exchange views with his Saudi counterpart Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud on matters of mutual interest.

During his four-day visit to Brunei Darussalam, the defense minister discussed with the leaders of that country bilateral matters and important regional and international issues. The defense minister said that Brunei and Pakistan share identity of views on many regional and international issues.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD1611231292 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Abdelhafid Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived in Jeddah today on a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Filali was met at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport in Jeddah by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and by the Moroccan ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohamed Tazi.

Defecting Iraqi Military Expert Briefs Iran

PM1811090092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Nov 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Expert Takes Refuge in Tehran"]

[Text] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Well-informed Iranian sources yesterday emphasized that a prominent Iraqi military expert took refuge in Tehran recently and currently is helping Iranian authorities update their files on Iraq's military capabilities, especially with regard to its nuclear programs.

The sources said that the Iraqi expert is a senior Iraqi Army officer who holds the rank of brigadier, but they declined to reveal his name for reasons related to his safety and that of his family.

An Iranian military source emphasized that Iraq was still in possession of huge quantities of the missiles known as "al-'Abbas" and "al-Hussyn," pointing out that they number between 200 and 300.

The source said that Iraq had over 500 missiles before the war to liberate Kuwait, among them a large number of missiles developed in the huge military complex set up by the Iraqi regime near Baghdad for the production of surface-to-surface missiles.

Kurdish Leader Talabani on Fight With PKK

TA1811100092 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 2020 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Mithat Bereket in northern Iraq for the "32d Day" program; date not given—recorded, in English with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[Text] [Bereket] We asked Jalal Talabani about what is happening between the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] and the guerrillas, and about the conditions of their agreement.

[Talabani] After three weeks of fighting, we surrounded the camp of Osman Ocalan [one of the PKK leaders and brother of main leader Abdullah] in the Khakurk valley. Helpless, they contacted us on the radio and asked for a cease-fire. They said that they would give up their arms and abide by our conditions. An agreement was signed with Osman Ocalan. The conditions were as follows: The PKK will vacate its camps along the border; it will not launch military attacks against Turkey from Iraqi Kurdistan; it will not interfere in our domestic affairs, or carry out propaganda against us. In return, we allowed them to settle in an area far from the Turkish border. They are now under our control. They cannot carry a gun or leave their camps unless they have a permit from our interior ministry.

[Bereket] But how will you be able to control the Khakurk valley? We want to see the fines there. It is very difficult, almost impossible to control the area because of natural conditions. How can you guarantee that the PKK will not return to the camps here in the fall?

[Talabani] This is a very good and important question. In Spring, we will settle our villagers in the villages in the Khakurk valley to establish full control. We will settle these areas as much as possible. In this way, everything will be under our control. Now, they do not have a single camp there. Nor will they have any in the spring.

[Bereket] If the PKK is under your control, why do you not hand them over to Turkey?

[Talabani] It is impossible because it is against international law, against the Geneva Conventions, against human rights. Now, we have promised the Turkish authorities that the PKK will in no way carry out activities against Turkey from our common border. Therefore, the Turkish Army can go and defend its other borders. We are doing this for Turkey. The PKK is now hundreds of kilometers away from the border. They were brought to a camp near as Sulaymaniyah near the Iranian border. These people are now under our complete control there.

Explains Intentions in North

NC1611213092 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 11 Nov 92 p 19

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, by Tayyar Salih in al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil; date not given]

[Text] [Salih] A new state is being set up in northern Iraq. It is facing political, economic, and social difficulties. Could you talk about these difficulties?

[Talabani] We will not set up a state in northern Iraq. We are only going to set up a government. Iraq will remain one state, a democratic and federal one. As was the case during the Ottoman period, there will be provincial [vilayet] governments in Iraq. This will be a new federal state, a new federal system. For example, Germany is a federal state. Canada is made up of a number of peoples, but is at the same time a federation. Two ethnic groups make up Belgium, but it is a federation. There are other federal states such as the United States, Switzerland, India, and Pakistan. I am a lawyer. I know the difference between a state and government. A state has its own Foreign Ministry, its own ministers and organizations, and its own currency. A government, on the other hand, does not have these things.

[Salih] Turkey is not that sympathetic to the formation of a new federal state and is criticizing these plans. How do you view this criticism?

[Talabani] I do not think they understand what I am talking about. They think this government will be a state that will break away from Iraq and declare its independence. This is not correct. Turkey has to understand the following: Our own federal system is far more benign

than the one in Cyprus. Ours is a federation like Germany or Canada. Turkey should give us the opportunity to explain this clearly to the Turkish parliament and people. For example, everybody wants a federation in Cyprus. Our population is 10 times that of Cyprus. Why should there be opposition to a federation in our case? Dr. Muzaffer Arikan and our other Turkoman friends support us on the issue of federation. The views of the Turkoman and Turkish colleagues on this issue are important to us.

[Safak] If the Turkomans in Iraq set up their own federal state, will you support it?

[Talabani] We are supporting all their demands. They laid out all their demands on a paper at the Vienna congress. I accepted all of them without even reading them. There were only a few spelling mistakes in that paper. I did not even ask them to be corrected.

[Safak] In a press conference a few days ago, you said that President Ozal proposed the idea of a federal state to you. How, when, and where was this proposal made?

[Talabani] Esteemed Ozal stated this openly at a press conference after the Kuwaiti war. This was not a private talk. He also said this in various other places. He repeated the same thing some time ago, saying: "Federation is not dangerous."

[Safak] Was this issue discussed during your meetings in Turkey and during the meeting with Ozal at the presidential mansion?

[Talabani] No! However, our delegation, which represented all the Iraqi opposition groups, discussed with Ozal the Kurdish people's right to self-determination within the framework of the Iraqi state and democratic regime to be established in Iraq. After that, the Kurdish Parliament adopted the decision on a federal state. The decision on federation was then endorsed during the meeting of the Iraqi opposition groups.

[Safak] On the day the federal state was proclaimed, the peshmergas launched an operation against the PKK [Kurdish Workers Party]. Was this a coincidence? The prevailing view in Turkey is that you launched the operation to curry Turkey's favor for your federal state and to help Turkey. What do you say?

[Talabani] Two months before beginning the operation we sent the following message to the PKK leaders: "You cannot remain on our borders." We gave them two months to leave. This timeframe ended on 1 September [month as received]. The parliamentary meeting of the opposition groups at Shaqlawah and Salahaddin decided that "the Kurdish Parliament was forced to adopt this decision." Upon that, the Kurdish Parliament immediately adhered to this decision. The decision was not adopted against the PKK as such.

[Safak] Did the Turkish Government have prior knowledge about your plans against the PKK?

[Talabani] Not the exact day and hour! We simply told them the following: "We will give the PKK a 1 September deadline." The government told us: "We will come and occupy that region." We responded thus: "Do not come until 1 September. We will take our own measures. We—the Kurdish government, police, and peshmergas—can control this region. Therefore, there is no need for you to come." That is why we were not pleased with Turkey's ground and air operation. When they entered our lands, we asked them to withdraw.

[Safak] The PKK agreed to lay down its arms. How many PKK members did you capture?

[Talabani] The PKK agreed to our conditions and agreed to lay down its arms on our lands bordering Turkey, Iran, and Syria. It agreed not to attack Turkey from our lands. Any political group can remain on our lands as a political force, but not as a military force. The PKK prisoners in our hands number between 40 and 50. There are also between 40 and 50 injured who are receiving medical care. According to the agreement, we will specify certain locations for them. They will go there, but without their weapons.

[Safak] Where, then, are the rest of the PKK members?

[Talabani] Some of them are in northern Iraq.... Some went to Turkey, and the rest went to Iran.... Those remaining in northern Iraq number between 700 and 800. A few thousand went to Turkey and a few thousand went to Iran.

[Safak] As far as I understand, those in northern Iraq have not laid down their arms.

[Talabani] They will when we start transporting them to the camps. They will only take a certain amount of arms for their protection.

[Safak] Can you also give the number of dead among peshmergas and PKK members?

[Talabani] To tell you the truth, I do not know the actual figures; we have been unable to determine the number of dead, injured, and missing on all fronts. We also gave the following orders to the peshmergas: "Our aim is to expel the PKK, not to kill them." We do not like bloodshed.

[Safak] Did you consult Turkey in extending the PKK the offer to lay down its weapons?

[Talabani] Yes! We talked with Turkey a few times. They did not like our plans. Whether or not they liked it is their business.

[Safak] Have you finally gained enough strength to prevent the PKK from attacking Turkey from northern Iraq? Can you give such an assurance to Turkey?

[Talabani] Yes! We could give the following assurance to Turkey: The PKK can never cross into Turkey from

northern Iraq. However, it will not be our concern if the PKK continues to wage its armed struggle from another place, such Iran and Syria.

[Sofak] Turkey currently gives you more aid than anyone else. What sort of assistance are you getting and is it enough? Do you have more expectations?

[Talabani] Regrettably, Turkey has not helped us. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel is the only one who has done anything. He gave permission for cigarette paper and filters to be brought in for our cigarette factories. This was a great help, and I thank Suleyman Bey for that. We received only moral and spiritual assistance from Ozal.

[Sofak] Do you have anything to say to the Turkish people?

[Talabani] I send my greetings to the Turkish people, with whom we have been friends throughout history. I hope they remember the past. We lived and shed blood together for centuries. If they consider us a people let them support us. If they see us as mountain Turks, then at least let them support us the same way they support the Turks in Cyprus. I am praying for Turkey to become a developed and democratic state like the European ones.

[Sofak] What do you think about the Kurds in Turkey? I am asking this because some are worried that if you attain statehood, you might want to have a say on Turkish territory.

[Talabani] We have a realistic approach regarding the Kurds in Turkey. We want the Turks and Kurds in Turkey to respect democracy, human rights, and equality. We support this. We are supporting a political struggle for the Kurds in Turkey within a democratic parliamentary system. Problems between the Turks and Kurds cannot be solved through terrorism. Friendly and brotherly ties should be reestablished. We want the Kurds in Turkey to visit Iraq to see our experience and benefit from it. Let them come and see the extent of the lie of PKK propaganda against us. Let them benefit from the struggle we are waging for democracy and the brotherhood of the Kurdish and Arab peoples. It must be understood that the current borders will not change. They have to live in Turkey and obtain their rights through democratic channels.

Regime Shells PUK Headquarters in Irbil

NC1711181992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The regime forces bombarded the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] [name of military unit indistinct] headquarters in (Shaqawrak) in Irbil Governorate at 1530 on 16 November. The peshmergas retaliated against the hostile shelling by bombarding the headquarters of [word indistinct] Regiment from three directions. The peshmergas and the citizens suffered no casualties.

Kurdish Radio Reports UN Vehicle Bombed in Duhuk

NC1711170792 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] A time bomb planted by agents and traitors exploded under a UN vehicle in Duhuk at 2245 on 15 November 1992. The vehicle was destroyed, but no one was hurt in this terrorist operation.

Shiite Radio Reports Attacks on Regime

NC1711154492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Our military sources have praised the heroic stands of the popular intifadah's sons in various parts of the country. They described the force and activity of the popular forces in the southern marshlands who have been dealing blows to the remnants of Saddam's defeated forces.

In their latest communique, our sources noted that a few days ago the valiant popular forces attacked a number of the 'Affiqite regime's units in Shatt Shujayriyah region in the marshlands of al-'Amarah Governorate. As a result of this blessed intifadah attack, numerous officers and soldiers of the despicable regime were killed. Our forces also seized large quantities of vehicles and arms belonging to the reckless Saddam's mercenaries.

Our heroes also planted explosive devices on the roads leading to the units of Saddam's forces near Shatt Shujayriyah. When these explosive devices exploded the next day, they destroyed a number of military equipment of the oppressive Saddamite enemy and killed and injured a number of men.

The sons of Muslim Iraq will adhere to this holy jihad course, relying on God's help until our people's will is realized to topple Saddam's indiscriminate dictatorship.

Arrested Youths Taken to 'Secret Detention Camps'

NC1711145192 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] In confronting the unjust regime and showing no concern for its mercenary scoundrels, a few days ago our popular forces clashed for over two hours with fragments of the tyrant near al-Jawadir Hospital in Baghdad.

During this armed struggle, a number of the regime's scoundrels were seriously injured and five were killed. Ambulances were seen rushing to the scene of the incident to remove the corpses of the aggressive 'Affiqites.

These incidents took place after the aggression of Saddam's men and agents on the sons of the valiant district of al-Thawrah in Baghdad. The authorities also arrested over 60 [word indistinct] youths, many of whom had [words indistinct]. So far, the fate of these arrested youths is not known. However, rumors say the youths

have been transferred to the secret detention camps that citizens believe are being prepared by the regime somewhere between Baghdad and Tikrit.

Russian Opposition Delegation Continues Visit

Talks With Trade Minister

JN1411134792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih met today with a Russian parliamentary delegation led by Sergey Baburin, head of the opposition parliamentary bloc Russian Unity, and his delegation.

During the meeting, Minister Salih reviewed the evil objectives of the unjust economic blockade and his ministry's efforts to provide food to Iraqis, Arabs, and foreigners according to the ration card system, which ensures that everyone gets a fair and equal share of foodstuffs and basic necessities.

Dr. Salih said the economic blockade is a crime that violates all heavenly values and laws, as well as international norms, and brings tragedy and calamity to the children, women, and old people of Iraq. He stressed the need for international organizations and agencies to embark on a serious effort to lift the blockade, end the Iraqi people's suffering, and ensure their legitimate right to obtain food and medicine.

Sergey Baburin said all people aspiring for freedom take pride in the Iraqi people's stand to defend justice, independence, and their principles. He stressed his interest in normalizing relations between the two countries for the benefit of both friendly peoples.

Joint Statement Reported

JN1511112792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] The National Assembly and the Russian parliamentary delegation currently visiting Iraq have affirmed the importance of identifying the ways and means of returning ties between the two countries, which suffered some chill in the aftermath of the Gulf events and the 30-state anti-Iraq aggression, to their previous state in accordance with the treaty of friendship concluded between the two countries in 1972.

This came in a joint statement signed by Dr. Sa'ly' Salih al-'Umar, chairman of the Arab and International Committee of the Assembly, and Dr. Sergey Baburin, head of the Russian parliamentary delegation and chairman of the Russian opposition parliamentary bloc [title as heard].

The statement says: The Russian side affirms the importance of safeguarding Iraq's unity and sovereignty. There should be no attempts to partition Iraq, since such an eventuality would disrupt security and stability in the Middle East region, which is of vital importance to world security and stability. It is important for the Russian Parliament, along with CIS parliaments and other parliaments which maintain ties of friendship with them, to make concerted efforts to urge the Security Council to rapidly lift the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq.

The statement indicated that the two sides agreed on the continued exchange of visits and meetings. They also agreed to coordinate positions at international conferences and thwart the attempts being made by some hostile quarters to disrupt the march of friendship and cooperation between the Iraqi and Russian peoples.

Furthermore, the two sides affirmed the need to maintain parliamentary dialogue and cooperation between the Iraqi and Russian parliaments with regard to the issues that are of interest to Iraq and Russia and their peoples.

The two sides condemned the double standards being pursued by the United Nations through the Security Council, as manifested during the latter's handling of international issues in the name of international legitimacy and the new world order, which is actually a euphemism for the domination imposed by a single state.

The statement pointed out that the guest delegation will, upon its return home, take the necessary measures to allow an Iraqi parliamentary delegation to visit Russia.

Attends National Assembly Session

JN1511143992 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, Nov. 15, INA—The National Assembly yesterday held a sitting chaired by Speaker of the Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih and hosted in its session delegation of the Russian Parliament opposition group headed by Mr Sergey Baburin [name as received] who has been on a visit to Iraq.

Mr Baburin gave an address before the meeting in which he has confirmed that the Russian people harbours admiration and appreciation for the people of Iraq and its generous sacrifices in defence of its homeland and nation against all forms of foreign aggression.

He has said "our visit to Iraq is a contribution to and a step on the road of breathing life in the strong ties that have been prevalent between our two countries and which have been frozen for a short period. Many lies have been written about the situation in Iraq and Russia, therefore we have decided to come to Iraq to see what is happening in it and to get acquainted with what is going on in Iraq and gain close knowledge."

Mr Baburin has added "during our visit to Iraq we have been to Baghdad and al-Basrah and a number of projects built with the help of Soviet experts and we have come out with two major conclusions from this visit, first, the

Iraqi people is heroic and capable of confronting these pressures put on it at this crucial time while blockade is continued against it."

He added "the second conclusion is that despite evidence affecting our relations sometimes that friendship is still existent between our countries," pointing that the delegation after its return would explain to the Russian people through the parliament what America had done against Iraq in that it could not be described but as aggression under the U.N. umbrella.

He has further said that "we would exert all efforts to convince our colleagues and the Russian leadership on the necessity of abolishing the sanctions imposed on Iraq as soon as possible and we can not but condemn these double standard attitudes that regretfully have become a principle in the international relations."

The National Assembly has also held another meeting in which he invited the Iraqi foreign minister Mohammed Sa'id al-Sahhaf. [passage omitted]

Confers With 'Aziz

JN1711020692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of its Foreign Relations Bureau, today received Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, who is currently visiting Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz affirmed Iraq's desire to maintain relations of cooperation and friendship and promote them in the interest of the two nations in a manner that contributes toward establishing security and stability in the region and the world.

Zhirinovskiy expressed pride in the historical relations of friendship between Iraq and Russia, affirming the need to promote them in the service of the two brotherly nations.

He praised Iraq's stand and strong will, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, in the face of aggression, saying: We in Russia need such a will and strength which President Saddam Husayn has, to remedy Russia's situation.

Tariq 'Aziz and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy reviewed the historical relations between Iraq and Russia.

Discusses Ties With Ramadan

JN1711184092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, met here today with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party.

During the meeting, they discussed the ties of cooperation between Iraq and Russia and the means of enhancing them in the interest of the two countries' peoples. Taha Yasin Ramadan spoke on the policy pursued by the former Soviet Union, saying that its leaders supported the U.S. policy and implemented U.S. decisions. This policy, Ramadan added, harmed the former Soviet republics, just as it harmed the peoples who were friendly to the former Soviet Union.

Taha Yasin Ramadan went on to say: President Saddam Husayn's adherence to Iraq's principled positions, the efforts he has made to defend Iraq's sovereignty and resources as well as the Iraqis' future, and the steps he has taken to confront all chapters of the aggression and conspiracy have rendered him a principled and nationalist leader. Thus, he has earned the people's strong support.

For his part, the leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party said that the compliance by the leaders of the former Soviet Union with the U.S. policy and their relinquishment of the struggle against colonialism were a betrayal of the Soviet peoples. He paid tribute to the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, saying that the peoples of the former Soviet Union as well as struggles at the parliament and within other parties wish to have a leader like President Saddam Husayn, who has become a symbol of nationalist leaders.

National Assembly Official Leaves for Khartoum

JN1611111292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1013 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Amman, 16 Nov (INA)—Ghanim 'Aziz, deputy speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, has left Amman for Khartoum following a two-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit, the deputy speaker of the national assembly met with Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi and House of Representatives Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat. He conveyed to them a message from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, dealing with bilateral relations and the current situation in the region.

INA correspondent in Amman has learned that Ghanim 'Aziz is carrying a message from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Sudanese National Transitional Council. The message deals with bilateral relations and developments in the Arab arena.

Egypt's Proposal To Dismantle MFO Rejected

TA1811114692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Nov 92 p A1

[Report by security affairs correspondent Alef Ben]

[Excerpts] Egypt has proposed to Israel dismantling the MFO [Multinational Force and Observers] in the Sinai and to overuse the implementation of the military component of the peace treaty by other means, saying that the peace relations between the two countries no longer justify the presence of a foreign force. The proposal was raised in the meeting of the bilateral military committee in Cairo two weeks ago.

Israel believes the MFO's presence remains vital to help promote peace, as long as Egypt maintains restraint in its relations with Israel and does not encourage direct contacts between civilians on both sides of the border. Also, Israel does not want to introduce any changes to the peace accords with Egypt while negotiations are underway with other Arab countries.

The MFO's future will be discussed in the next annual meeting of Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. officials, the force's sponsors. The meeting will take place in Rome, seat of MFO Director General Walt Cluverius. [passage omitted]

The rapprochement between Cairo and Jerusalem in the wake of the elections in Israel affected the deliberations of the military committee. For the first time since the committee was established in 1982, Egypt agreed to host the Israeli delegation in a military facility. Prior to this, the meetings had been held in hotels.

The committee discussed a variety of issues pertaining to law and security along the joint border, such as the border terminals, drug dealing and smuggling, fishing and sailing problems, and the treatment of refugees in Rafah. [passage omitted]

Rabin: Time Not Ripe for Meeting With al-Asad

TA1711153992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that the time is not yet ripe for a summit meeting with the Syrian president. Rabin spoke in the Negev during a visit to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Southern Command. Our correspondent Uri Binder reports:

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was today the guest of the Southern Command. Accompanied by Major General Matan Vilna'i, the prime minister visited an artillery firing exercise and met with Giv'ati Brigade soldiers and with officers of the Southern Command's Home Front Command. In the southern Negev, Rabin took time off to answer reporters' questions. On the issue of a meeting with President al-Asad, the prime minister said:

[Begin Rabin recording] We did not ask for such a meeting. What we said was that it is inconceivable for us to reach a peace accord only through correspondence between the senior political levels. At the same stage, if we make progress, and hopefully we will make progress, we have to let both peoples know that we really mean peace by holding a meeting at a high level. That stage has still not arrived. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rabbi Notes 'Duty' To Prevent Attack on Arabs

TA1711185392

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 17 November carries a recording of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks "in the wake of the attack in the butchers market" in East Jerusalem on 16 November: "I am sorry that some Jews rejoice at the news of a murderous attack. I think we ought to oppose any murderous attack—first of all attacks on us, but our moral duty to oppose and to fight murderous attacks on us has to do also with our duty to make sure that such an attack is not carried out, God forbid, by one of us."

Later in the program, Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer is quoted as saying in the wake of the same incident that "there is no need to make guesses about the identity of the persons who hurled the grenade in Jerusalem," because that "only exacerbates the tension." Ben-Eli'ezer adds that "the deterioration in East Jerusalem must be stemmed immediately." In a recorded passage, Ben-Eli'ezer says: "Basically, the situation in Jerusalem—mainly in the area of the Old City's walls—is grave, acute, and very tense. I believe the Israel Police and the security forces are aware of the situation, which is on the verge of an explosion."

Referring to the question of the possibility that a Jewish underground had perpetrated the attack, Ben-Eli'ezer says: "I do not believe there is an underground, and I do not think one will be established. I believe there is a renewal of tension, and the tension is gathering momentum in the area of Jerusalem. The sooner the security forces—the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Israel Police—take charge and nip it in the bud, the better. People must realize that when they have legitimate grievances, they have a right to demonstrate and wage a struggle. What they cannot do is take the law into their own hands; they cannot throw grenades or use firearms, and I am referring to everyone—Jews, Arabs, and others. The government, myself included, are duty-bound to fight it."

The same Qol Yisra'el news unit reports later, "This afternoon, the police detained a Kakh activist from Petah Tiqva. The suspect is now being transferred to the police station in the Old City of Jerusalem, where he will be interrogated about yesterday's attack in the Old City's butchers market."

'Terrorists' Killed in Exchange in South Lebanon

TA1811112492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Two terrorists were killed in south Lebanon during an exchange of fire being conducted now for several hours, sources in the SLA [South Lebanese Army] told our correspondent, Yo'av Aviv.

Our correspondent was told that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] started shelling after terrorists fired at an IDF post in the al-Nabatiyah area. An artillery battle developed, during which two terrorists were killed.

Envoy Sees Friction With Clinton Administration

TA1811084692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Nov 92 p 7

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador in Washington, yesterday dispatched a long report to Jerusalem detailing what is expected to take place in Israeli-U.S. relations when Bill Clinton takes over the White House.

Shoval writes, among other things, that "we can expect that on the ideological level, relations with the United States will be stronger than ever during Clinton's term." But Shoval added that does not mean that Israel will be viewed as automatically right on every issue. Shoval believes that the points of friction with the Clinton administration will concern the sensitivity the administration is expected to show on human rights in the territories and other issues dealing with removing weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East.

Shoval also warns against the general view that the many Jews working with Clinton will make life easier for Israel. "On the contrary, the new administration will make an effort to balance its policy toward the Arabs and Palestinians by expressing support for their positions," Shoval wrote.

The ambassador suggests in the report he sent the prime minister and foreign minister finding an opportunity soon to start a dialogue at the highest level with the new U.S. Administration, and to reach an understanding with it on issues important to Israel. [passage omitted]

U.S. Asked To Explore UAE Interest in Satellite

TA1811113792 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Nov 92 p A3

[Report by Uri Nir in Washington]

[Excerpts] Israel has called on the United States to check the details of a report about negotiations being conducted between the administration and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over their request to procure a U.S.-made spy satellite. Israeli sources in Washington said yesterday that Israel had been unaware of the request and the fact that the administration is considering it.

The report was published yesterday in THE NEW YORK TIMES science supplement. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources in Washington responded with expressions of surprise. They said that Israel had not known about the Arab request and that Israeli representatives in Washington have asked the administration for clarifications.

Peres Notes Intent To Sign Chemical Arms Pact

TA1711190692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Israel will be among the first countries in the world to sign the convention banning the spread of chemical weapons. The convention will be available for signature at UN Headquarters in New York from next January.

Answering a question in the Knesset, the foreign minister also said that a number of countries in the region, including Syria, Libya, and Iran, were continuing to develop and arm themselves with chemical weapons. He hoped the Arab states would also express readiness to adhere to the convention unconditionally.

German Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives 18 Nov

LD1811094992 Hamburg DPA in German 0739 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Jerusalem (DPA)—Federal Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel today began his first official visit to the Israeli Government in Jerusalem. First, he laid a wreath at the memorial for the victims of the Holocaust in Yad Vashem. After that talks with his counterpart Shimon Peres are on the agenda.

This afternoon the foreign minister will meet Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It is still unclear this morning whether a meeting with a group of Palestinian representatives will come about. Diplomatic circles explain that Bonn made the offer of a meeting but had not received an answer by last night.

Meets With Peres

TA1811125192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The meeting between German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has just ended. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports from there:

Germany cannot participate directly in the peace process, but Germany itself, and the EC in general, are closely following progress in the talks, the German minister said. These remarks perhaps disappointed those who had hoped to be able to convince Bonn to increase its involvement in the peace process. One of Minister Kinkel's aims in coming to Israel was to clarify the

situation in Germany in the wake of the right-wing riots against foreigners there. Kinkel, who was previously justice minister, was asked whether in his view German legislation should be made tougher to be able to confront the situation.

[Kinkel replies in German followed by Eshel's translation] I do not believe that the Bundestag has to legislate tough legislation. It is the role of German society to confront that issue, but the government, of course, has the role of implementing it, not through new laws, but through existing laws.

Kinkel expressed to Minister Peres his shame about what has happened in Germany and called on the government and the people of Israel to judge Germany fairly.

Foreign Minister Peres expressed satisfaction with the discussions, but added that there was not enough time to deal with all the issues at length.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 18 November adds that "Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss told German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel this morning that the Bundestag in Bonn must legislate emergency laws to enable the police to fight the wave of racism."]

Voices Support for Peace Process

TA1811065592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel met last night with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Ammon Rubinstein. Kinkel, who arrived in Israel in the evening, said that his country sees itself as responsible for supporting Israel's peace efforts. He praised the steps toward peace taken by Israel's present government. Kinkel said Germany hopes to play an important role in the framework of the multilateral peace talks, and he promised to help Israel in its negotiations with the European Community. Foreign Minister Kinkel also promised an increase of millions of dollars in funding for joint Israeli-German scientific research.

Rabin Briefs UK's Thatcher on Peace Talks

TA1711092592 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 17 Nov 92

[Communication by the prime minister's adviser]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, yesterday (Monday), 16.11.92, met with former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher. Mrs. Thatcher was accompanied by British ambassador to Israel Andrew Burns. The two discussed the peace process, the situation in the Middle East and Israeli relations with Europe and the United States. The prime minister briefed the guest on the developments in the bi-lateral peace talks being conducted in Washington, while noting the country's pattern of moderation in the regional armament process. Mrs. Thatcher presented her positions on the current situation in the Middle East since the Gulf war, and on the situation in the former Soviet Union.

Regarding the crisis in Yugoslavia, Mrs. Thatcher said that she is ashamed of Europe: "I did not expect to see such violence in Europe. This is a blood-stain on our conscience," the guest said.

Palestinians Told To Focus on Interim Arrangement

TA1811055192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has advised the Palestinians to stop seeking an independent state and focus on the interim arrangement. Peres urged the Palestinians to stop making certain demands, including that Israel make a policy statement on halting settlement and that Jerusalem be placed on the agenda. Peres also said the Palestinians should cease demanding Israel recognize the PLO; he said they should elect their own leaders.

The foreign minister was speaking last night in Jerusalem to the leadership missions of the American Jewish Congress. Peres also advised American Jewry to take a public commitment stand for the peace process, and said he had proposed that the UJA [United Jewish Appeal] have a special campaign for peace in the Middle East.

Harish Seeks Investigation Into MK-PLO Meetings

TA1711130592 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Nov 92 p 11

[Report by Ruti Zuta and Fayiz 'Abbasi]

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish has asked the Israel Police to open an investigation against Knesset Members [MK's] Hashim Mahamid and 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah and against Wasil Sabil, the head of the Kafr Kanna local council, on suspicion of violating Article 4 of the Antiterror Act, which bans meetings with members of terrorist organizations.

Harish's call was made public yesterday in his reply to an appeal to the High Court of Justice calling on the head of police investigations to open a file against the three. The appellant, Attorney Yedidya Be'eri, claims that according to media reports, it appears that the three met at different times with senior PLO leaders, thereby violating Article 4 of the Antiterror Act.

In reply to HADASHOT's question on whether there is any intention of taking similar steps against MK's Ha'etzni Hasan and Ya'el Dayan for holding similar meetings with PLO members, the attorney general's office said that at this moment there is not. The difference, it was explained by the Justice Ministry, is that MK's Darawshah and Mahamid met with PLO officials in the presence of other Israeli civilians; therefore it is

not possible at this stage to discriminate between members of the group. The immunity MK's have regarding meetings with PLO members will be upheld if an indictment is presented against Darawshah and Mahamid. The attorney general's office also said that in Hizam's and Dayan's case, no other Israeli civilians were present at the meeting.

Asked about the decision to open a criminal investigation against him, Darawshah said that "there is no room for an investigation because the issue has been decided in the Knesset House Committee" and added that he had acted within the framework of his parliamentary immunity.

Darawshah met yesterday with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and informed him of his intention to present a motion to rescind the amendment banning meetings with PLO figures. Rabin told him to approach the justice minister in order to coordinate a date for presenting the motion.

In the meeting with Rabin, Darawshah presented 'Arafat's proposal to meet any place. "Rabin's answer shows that he does not accept 'Arafat's offer," Darawshah said when he left the meeting.

Chief of Staff Criticized Over Training Accident

TA1711210492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Very harsh criticism, unparalleled in many years, was leveled today at Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, the chief of staff, as he appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Knesset members [MK's] from various factions categorically demanded that the chief of staff immediately suspend the three officers mentioned in the report of the 'Eynan committee, which investigated the training accident in Zr'elim.

MK Yossi Sarid asserted that the committee had not been given all the pertinent material on the Zr'elim disaster, and other MK's did not spare the chief of staff, criticizing him both with regard to moves related to the investigation of the disaster and to discipline in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Ya'agov Ahimer'ir reports from the studio:

The committee members did not mince words. Yossi Sarid was sorry for having believed that the military censors had acted appropriately, saying: I thought they were not just covering their asses, I mean whitewashing the facts. [passage omitted]

Sarid made a very serious charge: The 'Eynan committee did not get to see all the material, and it did not know all the facts. [passage omitted]

Binyamin Netanyahu said at the committee session that Major General Levin [Zr'elim training exercise commander] had been his own commander, but there is no choice but to suspend him. Parents are afraid to send their children to the Army, Netanyahu told the chief of staff, and to allay these fears, the Army must treat the problem from the foundation, rather than offer an aspirin. [passage omitted]

Avigdor Qahalani said that when training accidents take place, officers must be put on ice. Eliyahu Ben-Elissar said that having read an abridged version of the 'Eynan Committee report, he believes that choice youths had sacrificed their lives. The issue of safety, he said, is definitely not the General Staff's first priority. [passage omitted]

Moshe Nissim said at the committee session that the accident was the result not of negligence, but of criminal negligence, and that is unpardonable.

The tone of Ari'el Sharon's remarks was different: Training exercises must not be stopped. The profusion of statements on this subject will harm the Army. Complex exercises only serve to inure the soldier to the reality of battle.

Committee chairman Ori Or, after listening to the criticism, voiced fear of an unbridled attack on the Army by the general public, but committee members protested Or's observation. Or believes the IDF should be given credit. [passage omitted]

After the session, several MK's told us off the record that the chief of staff's standing has been eroded to a certain extent.

Coming out of the session, Lt. Gen. Barak said the allegation that the 'Eynan Committee had not received all the material would be investigated. [passage omitted]

Observers, Analysts View Amnesty Decision

JN1711112992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Nov 92 pp 1, 5

["Special" to the JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Hussayn's general amnesty for political and other prisoners and detainees was seen by Jordanian analysts as a "royal" push for the young democratic process in the Kingdom and a new beginning for political activity strengthened by the recent sanctioning of political parties.

King Hussayn's Royal Decree to free hundreds of prisoners, including deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish, was welcomed by politicians, analysts and ordinary citizens as a positive move by the king to ensure the development of the democratic process, simultaneously keeping a secure country free of violence and militancy.

Observers and analysts who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES agreed that the amnesty carried a message to all concerned not to tamper with the liberalization process or the security of the country.

While some expressed concern over the release of prisoners who had confessed to, and later were convicted of, attempted murder and possession of illegal weapons to be used inside Jordan, the majority dismissed fears of a potential outbreak of violence similar to that in Egypt or Algeria.

Although many of those who were released were involved with Islamic and radical militant groups, analysts said the danger of an Algerian-style confrontation is not real, mainly because violence is generally rejected by Jordanians, who have always expressed keenness on protecting stability and national unity.

"I believe the situation here is stable and there is a popular consensus against the use of violence as a means to achieve political or social goals," said Muhammad Mashariqah, head of the Phoenix Cultural Centre.

Mr. Mashariqah, whose cousin was among those released Sunday night, insisted that those who once got involved with "armed struggle against the Israelis or using violence realize that this approach does not work any more." he said that his cousin, who belonged to Abu-Nidal's Group, (a militant Palestinian faction) and plotted to assassinate Britain's Queen Elizabeth in 1982 and was later sentenced to life imprisonment, had said upon his release that he was planning a "new start with a normal life."

Echoing a widespread view, Mr. Mashariqah described King Hussayn's pardon as having "a calming effect on a tense situation created by the trial of deputies Shubaylat and Qirrish."

The King's general amnesty came two days after the two deputies were sentenced to 20 years of hard labour by the State Security Court in the case of Shabab al-Nafir al-Islami, which, the court ruled, plotted to overthrow the regime through subversive activity. The proceedings of the six-week trial led to protests by members of Parliament and political activists who had demanded a retrial. The King's general amnesty cleared the two deputies of all charges.

Independent Islamist Deputy Shubaylat, who pleaded his innocence throughout the trial, saying that the charges were "fabricated against me for political reasons," was driven by car to freedom Sunday night to his hometown of al-Tafilah after 76 days in detention at al-Suwaqah prison.

Shaykh Qirrish and two shopkeepers who were also convicted in the al-Nafir case were set free. The shopkeepers Ahmad al-'Ayyubi and 'Abd-al-Hamid Mkaydish, each sentenced to 10 years of hard labour, placed a front-page advertisement Monday in a local daily newspaper thanking King Hussayn for his pardon.

Political analyst Labib Qumhawi agreed that King Hussayn defused a potential crisis by issuing the pardon, which excludes crimes of murder, rape, spying for Israel, and drug trafficking. He said that the amnesty was "the best way to preempt extremism," adding that the problem of those who tried "to tamper with democracy, whether by those in authority or not, must be addressed."

Dr. Qumhawi, saying that democracy was at stake before King Hussayn issued his pardon, added that the royal move would lead to the rehabilitation of the released prisoners. However, he warned that it "could give ideas to potential militants that they might get away with violence."

A seasoned analyst close to the government, however, said the King's pardon led to a new phase with a clean slate in Jordan's political life.

The analyst, who did not want to be named, told the JORDAN TIMES that the fact the King's pardon "was so big, everybody would want to work within the law now." He said that the King, who had "erased all hindrances to democracy in one move," provided a new beginning for political activists to work openly within the framework of the Constitution and the law, especially with political parties now in the process of registration.

This analyst, as well as Dr. Qumhawi, suggested an organized method of disarming all those who have not registered their weapons.

In an article in al-Destur in September—after the security forces confiscated caches of illegal arms—Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah proposed that the government announce a deadline for those who armed themselves during the Gulf crisis to surrender their weapons or face a government crackdown.

During the Gulf crisis, the Lower House of Parliament had called on the people "to arm themselves in self defence against a possible Israeli invasion." According to Islamic deputies, many people had responded to the call and kept the weapons after the war ended.

Iyad Qattan, director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), said he had mixed feelings about the release of some members of Muhammad's Army, who were convicted last year of terrorist activities inside Jordan.

Mr. Qattan told the JORDAN TIMES that although he was worried "about having a person who wanted to kill me out on the streets," King Hussayn's amnesty was a positive move. He said that a member of Muhammad's Army had confessed in court that he was watching Mr. Qattan's home and was "trying to booby-trap my car to kill me," adding that members of the group had confessed that they had a number of people on their hit list.

Echoing the spirit of the King's amnesty and expressing confidence that the released prisoner would be rehabilitated, Mr. Qattan invited the former inmate "to give a lecture at the RCC to explain why he wants to kill the people."

King Receives Birthday Cables from Saddam, Others

JN1311144292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Nov 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hussayn has received congratulatory cables on the occasion of his majesty's birthday, which is tomorrow, from a number of leaders of fraternal Arab, Islamic, and other friendly countries.

The cables expressed these leaders' warmest congratulations and best wishes to His Majesty King Hussayn on this occasion that is dear to the Jordanian people, to the Arab and Islamic nations, and to all those who hold dear the cause of freedom and democracy and the rights of people and humans, especially the pan-Arab rights truly expressed by His Majesty King Hussayn's march, which is full of sacrifice for and devotion to these rights.

His majesty received congratulatory cables from their majesties and excellencies King Hassan II, monarch of the Kingdom of Morocco; Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman; Iraqi President Saddam Husayn; President Ali Kafi, chairman of Higher State Council in Algeria; President Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine; the Indian president,; and the president of the Philippines.

Hussayn Cables 'Arafat on Independence Anniversary

JN1411111092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Nov 92 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—His Majesty King Hussayn sent Friday a cable to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat congratulating him on the fourth anniversary of the declaration of independence. King Hussayn wished Mr. 'Arafat continued good health and happiness and expressed hope that the Palestinian people would achieve their goals and national aspirations, of which the most important are the right to self determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil.

King Congratulates Syria's al-Asad on Anniversary

JN1511180492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] His Majesty King Hussayn has sent a cable to his Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, in which he congratulated him, in his name and on behalf of the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the anniversary of the Corrective Movement.

His majesty wished his excellency President al-Asad good health, and hoped that this anniversary will come again to the fraternal Syrian people while they are continuing their blessed march on the road of progress and prosperity.

Meetings With Iraqi Assembly Official Reported

JN1511181092 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, House of Representatives speaker, today conferred with Ghanim 'Aziz, deputy speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, who is currently visiting Jordan.

Their talks focused on current Arab developments. More details in this report from our correspondent for parliamentary affairs.

[Begin correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawnah recording] At the meeting, Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi received a message from Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly that included the greetings and best wishes of the Iraqi National Assembly to His Majesty King Hussayn and congratulations on the occasion of his birthday. The message also deals with the importance of Arab parliaments in serving the nation and in handling the developments on the international and Arab levels, and their impact on Arab causes.

Al-Lawzi stressed that Jordan is eager to pay attention to anything that serves the interest of the nation and Arab people everywhere.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, also received at his office Ghanim 'Aziz, deputy speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly who handed him a message from Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the National Assembly dealing with the current developments in the Arab region in general, and Iraq in particular.

At the meeting, Dr. 'Arabiyat emphasized the importance of convening Arab parliamentary meetings to discuss developments in the Arab arena. He called for moving and taking a clear position toward the crucial issues of the Arab nation in light of international developments.

The meeting was attended by the first deputy speaker of the House of Representatives and a number of deputies. [end recording]

Editorial Criticizes Kuwaiti Officials' 'Drivel'

JN1611120892 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 92 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Fiery Kuwaiti Heads"]

[Text] We thought that time would continue to perform its eternal function toward all issues and all human emotions and feelings. Consequently, we thought that after a long time has elapsed since the eruption of the Gulf war, the flame of vindictiveness has been extinguished and that the minds and hearts of the brothers of Kuwait were at peace. It seems, however, that two years after the Gulf war, the Kuwaiti brothers are still captive to a primitive logic and a hateful spirit.

Even though we were not in need of any evidence to prove that Kuwaiti officials remain captive to their vindictiveness, obsessions, and petty calculations toward everything that is Arab, the undiplomatic statements made by the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly reasserted that Kuwaiti fiery emotions have still not cooled off, that Kuwaiti political language is still thoughtlessly uttered, and that there is a serious lack of wisdom, insight, and balanced conduct in Kuwait.

Observers who follow the almost daily statements made by most officials in Kuwait on Kuwaiti affairs can hardly believe the drivel and nonsense and crude statements uttered by them, because their utterances greatly depart from the laws, traditions, and relations between brothers. The Kuwaiti rulers have gone out of their way in the favor of the conspiracy against the nation, thus they collaborated to strike at the nation's pan-Arab heart.

Had things been different in Kuwait and had Kuwaiti officials had some sense, would it be possible for someone like Ahmad al-Sa'dun, who heads an elected legislative body, to vehemently revile the Jordanian leadership and people, parliament and government, masses and parties? Would it be possible for him also to say things about this steadfast Arab bastion that would not be uttered by people who have decent tongues and sound minds, and would be eschewed by people who have embraced gallant and chivalrous traditions since they were young children.

The unfair accusations leveled at us, our people, and leadership, and the great harm done to this steadfast Arab bulwark, by Ahmad al-Sa'dun and other Kuwaiti gentlemen who are under the spell of foreign powers—acts which are committed even by the leaders of Kuwait themselves—will only increase our faith in our Arabism and our confidence in the soundness of our approach, and reassure us about our right pan-Arab choice. This is especially so when we see how those who fear their destiny are looking in the four corners of the globe for someone to save their necks from the consequences of the evil they have done to their nation and the horrid acts they committed against the present and future of this nation.

Chief of Staff Confers With Turkish Counterpart

JN1611203892 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Taleb conferred with the visiting Turkish military delegation led by Lieutenant General (Fikret Kubali). They reviewed the situation in the region and issues of mutual interest, as well as promoting cooperation and the exchange of military expertise. Field Marshal Abu-Taleb spoke about the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their humanitarian peacekeeping goal in various locations in the world. He also stressed Turkey's role in maintaining strategic balance in the region.

The Turkish chief of staff commended military cooperation between the two countries.

Resistance Reportedly Attacks Israeli Position

NC1811110592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that it launched a rocket attack against the Israeli position in al-Dabshah, overlooking al-Nabatiyah, at 0935 today. Flames were seen rising from the position, whose personnel were directly hit, according to the resistance sources.

Lebanese police sources said a group of resistance men attacked an Israeli position at the northern edge of the border strip. Israeli artillery reacted by shelling al-Nabatiyah and the Kafr Rumman area. The Israeli forces also used helicopters to rake the area.

An IRNA correspondent reports that an Israeli force advanced toward Kafr Rumman from the al-Dabshah hills. The resistance confronted the force in the villas region, outside the town. The same source adds that violent clashes are taking place with the Israeli force, which is supported by helicopters. A few minutes ago, IRNA's correspondent reported that the Israeli force withdrew after raking the villas and the al-Hasriyah areas, which belong to Kafr Rummun, and the hills overlooking the town.

Later, a Hizballah spokesman denied that its members attacked the Israeli position in al-Dabshah. The spokesman only said that there were raking operations after the attack.

Israeli warplanes are still carrying out mock raids against al-Nabatiyah and its extremities, paralyzing trade and traffic activity and obstructing classes in public and private schools.

Israeli Forces Shell al-Nabatiyah, Other Areas

NC1811093092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Life has come to a standstill in al-Nabatiyah since this morning as a result of Israeli shelling. Streets are deserted, schools have closed, and students have been sent home. Extreme caution prevails in the town for fear of an escalation of the scope of the shelling.

At 0900 today, Israeli occupation forces used tanks and rockets to shell the 'Ali al-Tahir area. A phosphorous shell fell in al-Maslakh quarter in al-Nabatiyah. Another shell fell outside Kafr Tibnit, while several shells fell near a deserted Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa.

The body of martyr Husayn Qansuh, from al-Duwayr, was moved to a hospital in Sidon this morning. Qansuh was killed during the Israeli shelling of Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0915 GMT on 18 November reports that "Israeli artillery is now heavily shelling al-Nabatiyah. The shelling spread at about 0955 to include al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the Kafr Rumman area. Our correspondent says several shells fell on al-Mazra'ah in the woods of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, and near the deserted Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah.

["REUTER says shells are falling at a rate of one every three minutes. In Marj 'Uyun, security sources reported that the South Lebanese Army spotted armed groups in eastern al-Nabatiyah, specifically at the foot of the 'Ali al-Tahir hill. Eyewitnesses say that 'Ali al-Tahir hill, overlooking al-Nabatiyah, has been raked by heavy machine guns and rockets since 0930.

["Israeli warplanes reconnoitered the area between the south and Beirut, breaking the sound barrier at 1002."]

Hizballah Chief on Resistance, Government

NC1711110092 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Nov 92 p 3

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah by Ibrahim al-Amin and Raghib Jabir on 13 November; place not given]

[Text] [AL-SAFIR] By way of a (relatively successful) media campaign, Israel is diligently trying to portray Hizballah as responsible for the latest tension in the south. To what extent do you think the enemy has succeeded in this?

[Nasrallah] In principle, the party that possesses mass media and enjoys great international cover and American support can move things in wrong directions. Here resistance becomes terrorism. Palestinians simply become stray people without a homeland, while the Ukrainian Jew (the recently killed soldier) becomes a citizen.

We believe Israel is pained by resistance operations against its soldiers who have been subjected to an open war of attrition. This is one of two objectives the resistance seeks to achieve: The first is to create a state of popular awakening through acts of resistance, not only through slogans and political rhetoric, and the second, to start a war of attrition against the enemy. These are the short-term objectives of the resistance.

If we review the acts of resistance, particularly since the martyrdom of former Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid 'Abbas al- Musawi, we will find a continuity of action. Successful operations have brought the enemy major losses and the resistance only minor losses, to the extent that some sides asked for our action to be confined to a certain type of operation, such as the use of explosive charges. We responded and concentrated on this aspect. This war of attrition helped to create a new situation in the Zionist entity. We find that enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who always tries to appear as a strong, able man, is pressured by his society to do something.

The enemy used warplanes to respond to al-Ahmadiyah operation in which five enemy personnel were killed, but there were no casualties at any of the targets raided in al-Biqa' and al-Hirmil. From a practical point of view, this kind of retaliation is useless. Sometimes the enemy reacts by shelling civilian centers, as it did by shelling al-Siddiqin.

Israel seeks to create extreme intimidation. But the success of this largely depends on the other side's reaction. We have not been intimidated. This intimidation did not affect the resistance line, because we have a clear vision. He who wants to carry out a major military operation does not invite correspondents to cover the buildup and does not bring in heavy artillery or armored vehicles, but brings a little infantry. According to all the information available to us from inside the border strip on the situation there, Israel is trying to create a media atmosphere to go hand in hand with a political climate that recent statements have created; not one Israeli official failed to discuss the issue.

We have noticed that the first footage of Israeli reinforcements was shown on the various television stations, which means Israel made the film and transmitted it to all the news agencies.

This Israeli intimidation did not change our plans. We organized the "Martyr's Day" celebration in the way you have seen and we made even more hardline speeches. Our action continued in the field and, despite all the difficulties, we carried out an operation in Rshaf amid all the concentrations that people were talking about.

We asked Lebanese officials not to be afraid. It was all intimidation. U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker rang up Lebanese officials early in the morning, so stirring confusion. The indication was that developments were part of a psychological warfare. We believe this will not lead to anything.

[AL-SAFIR] Is this an opinion or do you have information or facts that the enemy was not preparing a large-scale operation?

[Nasrallah] This is an analysis and conclusion from our view of the situation in the field. We have no informers inside the enemy's government, but there are several things, such as the nature of the military deployment, the type of equipment, the number of troops, and the enemy's political and media activity, on which our conclusion is based.

I think that as Yitzhaq Rabin tries to threaten us, he also tries to answer questions from inside the Zionist entity. Hardline groups pose questions to the Rabin government and call on it to do something against the war of attrition. So Rabin faces two options: He can run away from this war by deciding to withdraw, as the enemy government did in 1985, but which is impossible in the current political climate, or he can adopt an offensive stance and launch offensive campaigns on the media, political, and security levels, which is what Rabin is doing now. But the enemy's options in the field are limited. This can be discovered by following up the statements of the enemy's political and military leaders.

[AL-SAFIR] Is it the general political climate that prevents the enemy from resorting to a large-scale war or the policy of the Rabin government?

[Nasrallah] The political climate in which Rabin came to power does not help to launch a large-scale invasion. Rabin has been trying to present himself as a man who is striving for peace. I think Israeli's political calculations in Lebanon are different now from what they were during and since 1982, because launching a large-scale invasion will entail human, material, and political loss. This will mean a loss for the government in Israel. A senior Israeli military commander clarified this when he said: After carrying out a large-scale military operation, we face one of two options: either to stay or withdraw. In both cases, we must sit and count our dead. Israel is not facing static military bases, so that when they are removed it will feel at ease. It is facing groups of people committed to the option of perpetual resistance, which poses the question: Can the Israelis shoulder the burdens of a costly operation?

[AL-SAFIR] Is it not possible that its option could be a limited operation?

[Nasrallah] It is possible and most probable that they will continue their air attacks, as happened in al-Biqa', al-Hirmil, and Siddiqin. This kind of operation has become part of the enemy's firm policy in dealing with the resistance. There are people in Israel who advocate the constant use of such a method, because it greatly reduces the possibilities of human and material losses by the Israeli Army.

The enemy might resort to limited morning operations along the lines of the Kafra and Yatar operation (last winter). They would enter a village, murder, destroy, and make arrests with a view to dealing a material and moral blow to the resistance. This is possible. This possibility has its direct political and material calculations. If we take the example of the attack on Kafra and Yatar, we notice that the resistance suffered no losses, while the enemy lost seven soldiers, including one with the rank of captain.

Taking the difficult example of the attack on Maydan, although there were losses in the resistance ranks, the Israelis spoke of the ferocity of the battles and the number of enemy casualties. One of them commented in the Knesset that if this Army cannot occupy a village after 24 hours of fierce fighting, how can it carry out a large-scale invasion. The limited operation could face more difficulties than a large-scale invasion.

[Text] Some raise the issue of the solidity of the internal front, which is supposed to embrace and protect the resistance. They raise this issue in view of past experience, when there was a distance between the internal front and the resistance, resulting in popular withdrawal from the resistance. This is what Israel seeks today. What is your opinion?

[Nasrallah] This is a clear danger and one of the Israeli options in dealing with the resistance. We are aware of it and are trying to prevent it. We care very much about and try to work for a solid internal front, through our alliances and civil activity.

If we compare the current situation with the past, we find that political and popular support for the resistance is much better than it was. We maintain daily contacts with our people and always seek to establish good relations with the Lebanese Army and the various forces.

The people are basically convinced that what we are doing is a legitimate right and a duty. This is a fact. When people think about their responsibility toward this, we do not find them in one corner and the resistance in another.

The resistance that remains our option must also be the people's option. We realize the direction in which the other issues are moving. The best the negotiations can achieve is a new kind of 17 May agreement [signed by Israel and Lebanon in 1983 and according to which Israeli troops would withdraw from Lebanon]. Our people will not accept this. I think they are convinced that what is happening [the resistance] is right. Our people have proven throughout the years that they can survive despite the Israeli threats and aggression.

[AL-SAFIR] The general political climate appears to be moving in a different direction since the new government was formed. Things are moving toward calming the political situation and continuing the negotiations. How can the resistance harmonize between its jihad activity and the state's internal and regional policy requirements?

[Nasrallah] We have always said that politicians must utilize the resistance and blood to achieve the declared political objective—forcing the enemy to withdraw unconditionally. We must not reward the enemy for his occupation with political, economic, or financial gains.

In the field, we seek the resistance interest and that which can benefit it. The controls we need for the resistance are not the current political controls. They are the controls that safeguard resistance continuity, even if, occasionally, they meet or cross the political controls demanded by others.

If we notice resistance activity easing, this is linked with the interest of the resistance, not political demands to calm the situation to prevent tension in this or that area. Our rationale is that we must work to safeguard the resistance, which seeks the long-term attrition of the enemy. The goal of this policy is not political or to show off, but to inflict the heaviest possible losses on the enemy with the least possible losses in the ranks of the resistance and its supporters.

I say frankly that the controls or political reality do not tolerate firing rockets at the enemy's settlements inside the occupied Palestinian territory, but the reality in the field sometimes demands that we resort to such methods.

In principle, we reject sending groups to set up rocket launchers, firing them in the direction of the enemy's positions, and then issuing a statement about such an operation. This method is not useful and we have not and will not use it. But there is no case—such as when the enemy attacked Kafra and Yatar and when he prepared for air bombardment, raking from the air and raiding positions and houses, shelling, and setting the area on fire, while I am besieged in Kafra—when you can tell me that it is permissible to use this kind of weapon, yet not that kind. This is not logical. In such a case, we have the right to use all the weapons at our disposal to confront the aggression.

Our people can bear losses and sacrifices, but the Jewish people cannot. Jewish arrivals from Ukraine, Russia, and Ethiopia want a quiet life and cannot tolerate what our people can. The resistance is duty-bound to strike where it hurts the enemy to reduce pressure on our kinfolk. There is no problem if we hear an Israeli's cries of pain. We feel pain and sleep outside our homes, so why bother if the Israelis sleep in shelters? We have no shelters. This is the nature of war. This is the reality of the situation unless our politicians believe that what is going on is not war and that we should not retaliate against the enemy's destruction and killing of our people. There is a development in the political situation: We no longer hear anyone talking against the resistance. We hear certain politicians saying that if the enemy continues to shell civilians, the resistance has a right to resort to the same logic and bombard the Israeli settlements.

[AL-SAFIR] You have not heard the government call for halting operations at this stage?

[Nasrallah] No one can ask this of us.

[AL-SAFIR] What happened in the meeting you attended with the Army command and Defense Minister Muhsin Dalloul in the past two days?

[Nasrallah] We did not discuss details relating to the resistance. On coordination, we have consistently urged and still urge coordination to facilitate the resistance and to maintain our right to resist. There has been general talk and we heard certain people call on us to cooperate to control and calm the situation. No one mentioned details or rockets. We would like to point out that when the resistance resorts to shelling, this is not a unilateral action, but retaliation for Israeli action. The enemy began to admit this.

[AL-SAFIR] The state repeated its call for coordination between it and the resistance and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said the resistance should comply with the state's plan. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri spoke in the same vein. He said the resistance is not any party's monopoly. How do you view the state's role in protecting the resistance?

[Nasrallah] What Minister Buwayz said is an old position in a new language. Previously he used the term harmony. He used to call on the resistance to harmonize its actions with the government and we responded by calling on the government to harmonize its position with the resistance. If there is a problem and someone is trying to solve it, while another merely looks at it, the onlooker should move with the active

party, not vice-versa. Al-Hariri's statement that the resistance is not the monopoly of any party is excellent. This is our wish, but it is not enough just to say this. He should translate his words into direct action. I would like to ask whether the Islamic Resistance prevented anyone from resisting. Did al-Hariri's forces resist the enemy inside or outside the border strip and did the Islamic Resistance prevent them? Did we stop anyone? Have we prevented anyone from allowing the people of the south to consolidate their presence in their homes and villages? The day before yesterday and at the end of the vote of confidence, an urgent bill was moved to earmark 10 billion Lebanese pounds to help the people of south Lebanon. Our deputies voted for the bill although the funds will be disbursed through the Chamber of Deputies, not Hizballah bodies.

[Text]The problem with the government is that it is doing nothing for the resistance and the steadfast people there; it is only proposing regulations for resistance men. The state should adopt the resistance. But what can you ask of a government that does not dare adopt the resistance publicly? This is our main point against the government statement.

Let us be frank: Does it make sense that a government dare not mention one word about resistance in its policy statement?

The government valued the role of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. This is a good job. But is it not shameful that the statement contained no word about this army of martyrs, resistance men, and detainees, who achieved the liberation we are boasting about?

[AL-SAFIR] What would happen if the statement carried such a sentence?

[Nasrallah] The problem lies not in the statement, but in the political background of those who drafted it. While Israel and the United States are talking about terrorism and while France condemns the killing of Israeli soldiers on Lebanese territory and fails to condemn the killing of Lebanese civilians in Western al-Biqa', the government disregarded resistance in its policy statement.

[AL-SAFIR] Could you not give the government a chance so that you might examine its inclinations?

[Nasrallah] You cannot say the government forgot to mention resistance and should have been given a chance to rectify the issue. Many deputies stressed the importance of resistance and the need to strengthen its role during the debate on the government policy statement. Couldn't Prime Minister al-Hariri have said that in line with the desire of the people's representatives, the government announces it has adopted the blessed resistance?

The issue is well thought of; it is calculated politically and in terms of the media and it has to do with the [Arab-Israeli] negotiations and their results.

[AL-SAFIR] Does this not point to an Israeli objective—gradually separating Lebanon from Syria to break their solidarity over the negotiations and creating sedition between the Lebanese Army and the resistance under the pretext of disarming Hizballah?

[Nasrallah] I believe the chances of this plan succeeding are slim. The Lebanese-Syrian alliance is so strong that it can prevent such sedition. We maintain contacts with the state and we kept in touch with senior government officials although we withhold confidence from the government.

[AL-SAFIR] Why does the Islamic resistance not become a national liberation movement? Why is it exclusive to Hizballah?

[Nasrallah] This is the responsibility of the state and political and party leaders. We have always invited everyone to join us in resisting the enemy. Some forces with a resistance history are now absent from the resistance field.

We believe it is in the interest of resistance and in the interest of the south and the liberation that everybody join the acts of resistance. The stage is open to all. Some may present excuses and pretexts, but if we are serious about the liberation, we must put all these excuses aside.

We again call on the state and all nationalist leaders to shoulder the responsibility. It is not in Lebanon's or anyone's interest that Hizballah remain the only player on the resistance stage. Lebanon's only card at the negotiations and in addressing all forces is the card of resistance.

Why should the battle be confined to Israel and Hizballah? This is a result of the absence of others, whom we always urge to join the battle. Irrespective of excuses, each party has the weapons, the men, and the modest capabilities needed for resistance acts. We believe failure to join the resistance lies in lack of seriousness in adopting such a position.

[AL-SAFIR] You are saying, are you not, that operations will continue whatever happens? We notice that developments in the country are moving toward economic and social tranquillity and perhaps eventually toward civil peace. Don't you believe there is a contradiction between the continuing tension in the south and the overall political drift?

[Nasrallah] Absolutely not. Civil peace and economic stability serve the resistance cause. We have responded to all the measures that seek to protect the domestic front from any sedition. This serves the resistance cause against the occupation. Improving living conditions and internal stability serves the resistance and the liberation process.

[AL-SAFIR] Apart from its actual military war against you, Israel is conducting a security war that takes the form of intelligence gathering and physical elimination, such as 'Abbas al- Musawi's assassination. Recently there were reports that Hizballah uncovered more than one spy ring working for the enemy and that some of their members were Hizballah personnel who got involved in al-Musawi's assassination. How true are these reports?

[Nasrallah] They are false, particularly the part about Hizballah members getting involved with such rings. These reports are merely material for the press. So far we have discovered nothing to change the facts about al-Musawi's assassination. The operation was carried out in the open with Israel exploiting its considerable capabilities to implement it. Israel tried to say the operation was complex, that it was assisted by several agencies, and that it was carried out by the sensitive methods of intelligence services. I do not believe this is true. The existence of spy rings working for Israel and attempting to attack Hizballah leaders or carry out acts of sabotage is another issue.

[AL-SAFIR] Were some members of these spy rings arrested?

[Nasrallah] We have no connection with arrests and adhere to the country's security arrangements.

[AL-SAFIR] Were any contacts carried out with the Red Cross following your initiative about exchanging the two Israeli POW's [Rahamin al-Shaykh and Yosef Fink] for the detainees and POW's in enemy jails?

[Nasrallah] The head of the Red Cross branch visited us. He asked if there was any new initiative. This is what took place: Our remarks on this issue, as carried by an Iranian newspaper, came as part of an answer to a general question. We said we were willing to exchange the enemy POW's and agents in our custody for the detainees and hostages held by the enemy. This is in line with our long-held position. We are seeking an exchange, but the issue is plagued by several complications, notably Israel's demand that we should supply it with information about the pilot Ron Arad, although we neither hold nor have any information about him. The pilot's case is a priority for Israel. It has raised his case as a condition for an exchange. As a minimum demand, it wants information about him. We cannot oblige.

Moroccan King's Envoy Arrives, Makes Statement

NC1711161892 Shanaqb Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Abdelhadi Butaleb, an adviser to Moroccan King Hassan II, arrived in Beirut this afternoon and made a statement at the airport, saying:

I express my joy at visiting cherished Lebanon. I will have the honor of meeting with the Lebanese president to convey to him a verbal message from King Hassan II. I am making visits to a number of Arab countries to convey messages that deal with uniting the Arab ranks, clearing the Arab atmosphere, and maintaining contacts and talks between Arab leaders. We in Morocco believe that Lebanon has a vanguard role in the Arab family and its opinions cannot be ignored.

He also mentioned the possibility of opening a Moroccan embassy in Lebanon, saying: I believe this is possible any time now and will happen as soon as possible.

Delivers Message to al-Hirawi

NC1711181292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received the special adviser to Moroccan King Hassan II and discussed with him the situation in the south and Arab issues in Lebanon and the region. At 1600 today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a verbal message from Moroccan King Hassan II, conveyed to him by the personal envoy of Moroccan King Hassan II, Abdelhadi Butaleb, who arrived at Beirut airport on board a private plane at noon today.

Army Confiscates 'Large Quantity' of Weapons

NC1711141392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] In implementation of the cabinet's resolutions, the Army Command's security agencies carried out a campaign of raids in the last two days and confiscated a large quantity of arms and ammunition, some of which had been hidden in underground stores.

The confiscated arms consisted of about 500 new rifles and pistols; hundreds of mortar shells, RPG's, and grenades; millions of cartridges for ammunition of various calibers; four vehicles equipped with secret compartments for smuggling arms; and other military equipment.

Magistrate Releases 17 Lebanese Forces Members

NC1711123792 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Nov 92 p 4

[Text] After declaring the opinion of the military public prosecutor, Military Magistrate Muhammad Makki ordered the release 17 "Lebanese Forces" members who were arrested in the Atshinah area of al-Ashrafiyah [in East Beirut] on charges of forming "security cells."

The detainees, who were released on bail of 100,000 Lebanese pounds each, are Samir Nadir, Zahir 'Awn, Maurice Sammur, Simon Ghosn, Antoine Salmon, Kivork Ambahlian, George Hakim, Jean Abu-Haydar, Hanna Jurji, Tony Dib, Bassam Musa, Joseph Marun, Pierre Bulus, Joseph Yuwakim, Ilyas al-Asmar, Tony Romanos, and Joe Salih.

Khaddam on Lebanon, PLO, Radical Movements

JN1611192892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1340 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Interview with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Dr. Nabil Sabbagh and Sana' al-Imam in Damascus on 16 November, carried in a link-up with Damascus Radio and monitored in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Khaddam]...Every day they speak about the Syrian deployment, while they do not say one word about the Israeli aggression. On the contrary, they view the Lebanese who resist the aggression as terrorists and view the Israeli aggressors as the victims of terrorism. When logic and balanced stands once again govern these countries, then we can discuss this. However, this matter concerns Syria and Lebanon alone, and no one should interfere in it. What did these countries do when the Lebanese were suffering and Lebanon was bleeding? They used to encourage intra-Lebanese fighting. They used to excite the parties to fight. What did they do to halt the fighting and help the Lebanese? Syria alone shouldered the burden, and made sacrifices. We have shed much blood in Lebanon to stop the civil war and to have the Lebanese state resume its role. Had it not been for Syria, the war would still be raging in Lebanon. Had it not been for Syria, there would have been neither a state nor institutions in Lebanon. There would have been neither a president of the republic, a legislative council, a government, nor anything else. Fighting would still be raging. We were the ones who stopped the fighting, and we were the ones who contributed to the success of the al-Ta'if conference. The al-Ta'if conference would not have succeeded had it not been for Syria's support and assistance, and had it not been for the daily Syrian intervention with the Lebanese parties to convince them to reach an agreement.

We were the ones who offered sacrifices. We did not offer them because Lebanon is a foreign country. Lebanon is a fraternal Arab country. Lebanon and Syria are one people who live in two countries. Our pan-Arab responsibilities to Lebanon allowed the Syrian Government to take all the measures which the Syrian people accepted to help and save Lebanon.

Therefore, those who speak about Lebanon's sovereignty want the series of incidents in Lebanon and what used to take place and what their stands [sentence as heard].

[Sabbagh] Permit me to return to the question, a question that was put forth in light of U.S. statements made specifically by the U.S. State Department on the U.S. interpretation of the al-Ta'if agreement.

[Khaddam] The al-Ta'if agreement was written in Arabic, and we do not need to translate American language into Arabic.

[Sabbagh] In one of your recent statements, you said that Syria does not want Lebanon to become a second Bosnia. What do you mean by this?

[Khaddam] We are witnessing what the people of the former Yugoslavia are suffering. We also are seeing the tragedies that are being committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. What has the international community done to alleviate the suffering of these people who are being slaughtered for their sectarian and religious affiliation? What have they done? They dispatched some humanitarian assistance. However, in spite of this, blood continues to be shed and the people continue to be dispersed. If the atmosphere of civil war once again prevails over Lebanon, what will happen? What took place in the past will recur, as is now taking place in Bosnia. Syria will be forced for the second time to assume burdens and responsibilities to protect Lebanese society, Lebanese unity, and to halt the bleeding and the destruction in Lebanon. That is why we can never contribute to or facilitate the same circumstances that will make the state of affairs in Lebanon go backward. Lebanon is now witnessing peace and peaceful development. Lebanon is also experiencing serious steps on the road to regaining its vitality. We cannot accept or permit this state of affairs to deteriorate.

[Sabbagh] Let us now tackle the relations between Damascus and the PLO. Do you agree with the description of relations between Syria and the PLO leadership as resembling the notches on a saw? And is one of the reasons that these relations are this way is a fear by the PLO that Syria and Israel will reach an agreement at the expense of the Palestinians, and Syria's blaming the Palestinians for the manner in which they are holding negotiations with the Israelis?

[Khaddam] Relations between Syria and the PLO leadership are normal relations. As is known, we do not wish either now or in the future to interfere in the PLO's affairs. The PLO makes its own decisions and assumes responsibility for these decisions with the Palestinian people.

As for the fear this or that faction has concerning Syria's stand, I personally believe that there is not a single Palestinian who is involved, even slightly, in the Palestinian cause who can doubt Syria's stand. Everyone knows that Syria has carried the Palestinian cross since the turn of this century. The Syrians have participated in all the Palestinian revolutions that led Palestine during the British mandate. The Syrians participated in these revolutions as fighters and as leaders. Since 1947, and having only recently gained its independence, Syria participated in several wars. For whose sake? Until 1967, there was no occupied Syrian territory. For whose sake did we participate in these wars? For whose sake did we spend these large sums of money to build our defense capabilities? For whose sake did we divert these resources from the field of development to that of defense? We had no occupied Syrian territory. We did all this for Palestine. Palestine is part of the Syrian people's conscience. Those who hold a Palestinian identity card and doubt Syria's stand are certainly not nationalists and not Palestinians, and we must then search for the foreign party to which they are linked.

[Sabbagh] Concerning the Palestinian-Israeli track within the Washington negotiations, I believe you recently made several statements saying that this track has had some breaches.

[Khaddam] No statement was made. The Palestinian track deals with negotiations on Palestinian issues. Of course, there is an Arab agreement to coordinate and exchange information. The Palestinian delegation wages an important battle with the Israelis. The situation is not that easy. We did not make any statement, and we did not criticize. In any case, Syria is eager to safeguard the Palestinian people's rights in the same manner as it is eager to safeguard the Syrian people's rights. This is so because we and the Palestinian people are parts of the same nation and no one can point out to Syria what it should do and what it should not do with respect to its pan-Arab commitments. Syria is aware of these commitments and of its responsibilities. Those who want to point at Syria should proceed on the sound course to serve their cause.

[Al-Imam] Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, what is the fate of the cooperation and friendship agreements between Syria and the former USSR, and how do you define the current relationship with the Russian heir?

[Khaddam] There was a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR. With the collapse of the USSR, this treaty has been frozen. Contacts are under way between the Syrian and Russian Governments to discuss the possibility of whether Russia can be the real and serious heir of the USSR in terms of its obligations and ours.

[Al-Imam] How does Syria view the Turkish military intervention against the Kurds, and do the issues of water and the Kurds herald an actual Turkish intervention in the Middle East issues?

[Khaddam] Turkey is one of the countries of the region. It is a country that is Syria's neighbor. We have very long borders with it. We have mutual interests. The Syrian and Turkish Governments are eager to have positive and constructive relations. There is a state of positive and constructive cooperation between the two countries. Of course, by virtue of these long borders and the size of the interests between the two countries, a problem may arise from time to time. However, these problems are tackled through contacts between the two governments and most of the time we reach solutions. There is the problem of sharing the Euphrates water between the riparian states of Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. Protracted negotiations are being held. We reached a temporary agreement in 1987. We hope to reach a final agreement to share the waters among the three countries through negotiations. As for what is taking place between Turkey and the Kurds, this is an internal affair, and we have nothing to do with it.

[Sabbagh] Some Arab countries are now facing political and security troubles as a result of the growing radical Islamic movements. What political steps or guarantees is Syria working out to avoid this phenomenon?

[Khaddam] It is strange that fundamentalist Islamic movements are a subject of discussion, that Muslims throughout the world are being accused of terrorism, and that no one is talking about the most fundamentalist movement in history, namely, the Zionist movement. No one is talking about other fundamentalist movements such as Christianity, Buddhism, and others. We are afraid that talking about these movements aims to create unstable situations in the Arab and Islamic worlds and that this issue is being directed by certain sides, which do not want the Arabs to enjoy stability, security, and calm. I do not want to discuss the nature or circumstances of the fundamentalist movements in the Arab countries. This is an affair of the concerned Arab countries. But I want to point out that it is strange that focus is not being placed on Israel, although the fundamentalist Jewish movement has destroyed a whole nation and occupied a whole homeland, and that no one is raising this problem.

Regarding Syria, we have no anxiety about or problem with a fundamentalist Islamic movement or a fundamentalist Christian movement. The Syrian people are nationally unified, and every Syrian citizen is aware of the burdens of the country and of his responsibility for supporting the country's policy and march. We have no fears. Therefore, we do not seek guarantees as long as there are no fears. We know our people very well and we have confidence in our people. The people will never take any position that will not serve our strategy. In Syria, there are several trends. There are Marxist, pan-Arab, and Islamic trends. There are various trends in the country. We have no problem with any of these trends.

[Sabbagh] Following the end of the cold war and the East-West conflict, some people fear or predict a confrontation between the West in general and Islam. What is your opinion?

[Khaddam] We have to mention that it is the Israelis who have spread this idea. When Herzog visited Poland, he delivered a speech in which he announced that it is not the communists but Islam which is threatening the world. Hence, I wanted a short while ago to refer to the Israelis' role in instigating against Islam. The Israelis want to be the vanguard of the new crusader wars. They know that these wars will serve their strategy. Islam, as a religion and politics, has made a great contribution to humanity's progress. We must all remember that when the Arab Islamic civilization prevailed in Andalusia, Spain, Europe was immersed in ignorance, injustice, persecution, and religious and ethnic wars. European awakening in the 16th century was basically established on the Arab Islamic civilization. In this regard, I would like to point out that the French civil rights law, enacted during Napoleon's era, was derived from the Islamic law during France's stay in Egypt. Therefore, this war against Islam does not serve the Christians, the Europeans, or the Americans. It directly serves Israel.

[Sabbagh] Is there any plan to attract Syrian opponents abroad?

[Khaddam] We do not believe there are opponents. There are individuals living in the Champs Elysee and who frequent some cafes. We have no problem with them. It is they who have problems with themselves. The opponent who has goals and principles should not work from the streets of other countries. Rather, they should work with people. However, these people know that the Syrian people rally around their leadership and President Hafiz al-Asad. The referendum that took place this year to renew President Hafiz al- Asad's term showed unprecedented unanimity that not only supports Syria's policy but also shows that all the Syrians constitute one front in the face of the dangers threatening the Arabs and Syria.

[Sabbagh] Your Excellency Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, my last question is: What is your comment on the program, which Radio Monte Carlo has allocated for Syria on the radio's 20th anniversary and on the 22d anniversary of the Corrective Movement—a program which shows a living picture of the various political, economic, educational, social, and technical aspects of life in Syria?

[Khaddam] I would like to thank Radio Monte Carlo for this valuable initiative, which has allowed Syria to acquaint others inside and outside the Arab homeland with what it has achieved. We repeat our thanks to Radio Monte Carlo. This, undoubtedly, comes as part of the cooperation between the Information Ministry in Syria and Radio Monte Carlo and as part of the good relations between Syria and France.

[Sabbagh] In the name of Radio Monte Carlo Director Jean Tasser and the Arab and French editors working at the radio station, we thank you for the hospitality accorded to us during our coverage of the Syrian week. I also would like to thank Information Minister Muhammad Salman for his warm welcome and for the facilities the ministry extended to us during our stay.

[Khaddam] We wish you every success.

[Sabbagh] Thank you.

Rabin's Claims on Syria Obstructing Talks Denied

JN1711083792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 17 Nov 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Rabin's Fallacies," TISHRIN says: Since he assumed power, Yitzhaq Rabin has been consistently reversing and distorting facts. He claimed yesterday that Syria was obstructing the Washington talks and pursuing a double approach, thus negotiating on the one hand and creating obstacles to progress in the peace march on the other.

Rabin's claims do not hold water. For, Syria has announced, since the launching of U.S. and international efforts, that it supports a just, durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Syria has also said that it supports every settlement which stems from Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of trading land for peace, and which necessarily leads to full Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967 and to recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The paper adds: Syria has taken many steps to facilitate the peace process. It has also made specific proposals containing practical bases to advance the Washington talks. These proposals were appreciated worldwide. The question is: Has Israel responded to the will of peace? Has it responded positively to the Syrian proposals?

The former head of the Israeli Government admitted officially and publicly that he had adopted a policy of procrastination and delay. Rabin has tried to change the negotiations' course, framework, and objectives by proposing separate, partial, and phased solutions instead of comprehensive peace. So, who is the one obstructing the peace march?

TISHRIN goes on to say: Syria is willing to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East when Rabin makes a decision to implement Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 in all their clauses, and thus returns the occupied territories to their owners, lifts his iron-fist policy against the Palestinian people, and allows the sons of the Golan and south Lebanon to return to their homeland.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Leader al-Asad has publicly called for the peace of the brave and the knights and an honorable peace that ends occupation, injustice, and oppression. Rabin's reply was clinging to the occupation of the Golan, or part of it at least, clinging to the annexation of Jerusalem, and rejecting the implementation of international resolutions.

The whole world calls on Israel to yield to international legitimacy and end the policy of occupation, settlement, annexation, oppression, and suppression.

Israeli Action Linked to Talks, Clinton Win

PM1611110092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 92 p 5

['Abdallah al-Dardari report: "Damascus: Aim of Israeli Escalation in Lebanon Is To Isolate Syria"]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian sources link the Israeli escalation in southern Lebanon to the bilateral negotiations and the U.S. election results. They say that one reason for the Israeli escalation is "to try to evade withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories now that the discussions in the Syrian-Israeli negotiation track have reached the fifth point in the Syrian memorandum submitted to Israel calling for Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Syrian Golan and for the dismantling of the Jewish settlements there."

The Syrian sources say that the Israelis "are trying to avoid discussing that issue, and they instead raise the issue of the meaning of peace and talk about withdrawal from the Golan to secure and recognized borders," and they link that to complete normalization and separation of progress on the Syrian track from other tracks.

The sources add that the Israelis "do not want to give a clear answer regarding that point. They believe they do not have to, now that the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on the agenda has given the Israelis the breakthrough they wanted, and now that Bill Clinton has triumphed in the U.S. elections. Tel Aviv is holding urgent contacts with him with the aim of ensuring a U.S. stance more supportive of Israel and of its concept of peace and security."

The sources further maintain that the Israeli pressure is meant to achieve one of two objectives by either persuading the Lebanese Government "to disengage itself from Damascus and seek a separate treaty with Israel or at least agree to an agenda similar to that agreed with Jordan; or, through increased pressure, driving Lebanon out of the negotiations. Either way, the ultimate aim is to isolate Syria and weaken Arab coordination."

The sources emphasize that "the Lebanese people's resistance is a right guaranteed by international law. Neither Syria nor Lebanon will ever be guardians of Israeli security in the occupied Arab territory. As regards Katyushas falling on northern Israel, that proves once again that geography and occupation do not provide security and that withdrawal is the only way to restore security in the region."

On the negotiations, the sources say that "even if the Israelis accept the fifth point as proposed in the Syrian memorandum, the establishment of peace would require withdrawal from all the occupied territories and not only the Golan."

The sources add that "Syria considers its paper to be an integral whole and that agreement should be reached on all its nine articles before there can be any serious talk about a joint declaration of principles with Israel. The paper was drafted as a declaration of principles in which the two sides agree, in the first article, that 'they seek a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.' The second article says that 'any settlement on the Syrian-Israeli track must fall within the framework of a comprehensive settlement on all fronts.' The third article speaks of 'commitment of both sides to negotiation until a settlement is achieved.' The fourth article speaks of both sides' acceptance of 'the principle of mutual security.' When the Israeli side agrees to withdraw fully from the Golan, as stipulated in the fifth article, then agreement could be reached on articles related to the formation of joint specialized committees to supervise the security arrangements, whose implementation would be supervised by the Security Council through the use of UN, Russian, or U.S. forces. Then a peace agreement would be signed and lodged with the United Nations."

The sources say that "Israel does not want to commit itself to withdrawal and it insists on complete normalization which is not provided for under Resolution 242. It even resorts to military escalation to evade its commitments and put the Clinton administration face to face with a new fait accompli when Clinton officially takes over early next year."

Rally Held on Corrective Movement Anniversary

JN1611191192

[Editorial Report] Damascus Syrian Arabic Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1458 GMT on 16 November begins a live transmission from the Damascus University auditorium to carry a speech rally on the 22d anniversary of the Corrective Movement, which brought Hafiz al-Asad to power in 1970.

The live relay begins with an identified radio announcer greeting listeners from the university auditorium and paying tribute to this occasion and congratulating Arab and Syrian citizens on this occasion.

At 1507 GMT, Damascus Television joins the live relay, with an identified announcer greeting those attending, foremost of whom being Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, and Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Ba'th Party and President Hafiz al-Asad's representative, as well as other party and state officials.

The announcer asks the audience to begin the ceremony with one minute of silence in honor of Syrian and Arab martyrs. The minute of silence was immediately followed by the Ba'th Party's anthem.

At 1515 GMT, Bushrah Tawakkalna, chairwoman of the General Federation of Syrian Women, is introduced to deliver the first address on behalf of Syria's popular organizations and professional unions.

She reviews gains achieved for Syria under the Corrective Movement, which, she says, has entrenched the principles of party pluralism and true democracy. She says that under al-Asad, Syria has realized great progress on all fronts, especially in the field of popular organizations and professional unions. In this regard, she reviews the growing role of women under the Corrective Movement.

At 1528 GMT, Lebanese poet Khalil Farahat recites a poem, which concludes at 1554 GMT.

At 1555 GMT, Safwan Qudsi, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Union Party and member of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] begins to deliver a speech on behalf of the NPF.

Qaddah Addresses Rally

JN1611214392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1617 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Address by Sulayman Qaddah, regional assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and President Hafiz al-Asad's representative, at a speech rally on the 22d anniversary of the Corrective Movement at the Damascus University Auditorium—live]

[Excerpts] Sisters and brothers, comrades, masses of our proud people. The glorious Corrective Movement represents the people's desire for progress and change and the homeland's need for steadfastness and liberation. It lives in our hearts and shines in the sky of the Arab nation. It was launched by the grassroots of our party and the masses of our people under the leadership of comrade leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party. [applause] [passage omitted]

The Corrective Movement is a pan-Arab movement. It adheres to its principles and objectives and defends values. It is wisely and bravely led by the great Arab leader, struggler Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] It has turned Syria into a national and pan-Arab bastion and an object of trust and confidence. It defends the homeland and protects rights. Arab unity is its most exalted objective. Pan-Arab causes are its greatest obsession. The Arab nation's interest is above all interests and considerations. Liberating the land, restoring rights, and resisting the brutal aggression is the basic objective of our struggle. To this end, resources are mobilized and pooled. Within this course, Syria has struggled to achieve steps along the path of Arab unity. Syria's only condition was to link words with unionist action. Thus, the Union of Arab Republics was established, but it was not destined to continue, for reasons beyond our control. Toward the end of 1978, we concluded the Charter of Pan-Arab Action with Iraq in order to achieve unity between the two countries. However, the Iraqi regime thwarted this charter in the summer of 1979. Thus, it undermined a pan-Arab action, which, had it been completed, would have brought good to the Arabs, Iraq, and Syria. Besides, sisterly Iraq would have been spared the woes, tragedies, and disasters that the ruling regime in Baghdad has caused.

Syria has encouraged every Arab unionist effort. It believes that a successful Arab effort in this direction will constitute the starting point of our salvation. As Syria, under leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], worked for unity, it realized the nature of the Arab situation and its inherent obstacles to unionist action. Thus, under the Corrective Movement, Syria emphasized Arab solidarity in order to ward off the dangers and challenges posed to the Arabs, foremost of which being the Zionist challenge and attempts to impose hegemony over their resources and wealth. The current Arab disintegration and disarray contradict Arab interests, serve the enemies, and undermine Arab aspirations for security, stability and prosperity. The comrade secretary general of the party, leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad [applause], has exerted and continues to exert huge efforts to rectify the Arab course, heal the pan-Arab rift, and renounce marginal differences in order to achieve a large-scale coordination among the brothers. The Arabs are called upon to comprehensively review their positions and to look for new bases of joint Arab action in defense of their existence, objectives, and interests.

Comrade, brothers: Sisterly Lebanon's success on various fronts calls for hope and optimism. The march of Lebanese national accord is proceeding ahead and gaining further momentum. Normal life is returning to Lebanon, reflected in terms of further security, stability, and tranquility. In order to activate Lebanon's role in confronting pan-Arab challenges, the state's legitimate authority and institutions are being consolidated throughout the national soil. Meanwhile, the parliament has reassumed its role following democratic elections that took place for the first time in 20 years. A reconstruction drive has been started and constitutional reforms are being enhanced. This heralds good and recovery for Lebanon. Syria, which has exerted the most precious sacrifices to help the Lebanese brothers, will continue its brotherly pan-Arab stand and will continue to extend any help that sisterly Lebanon requests to bolster its unity, security, and stability. In this pan-Arab context, Syria extends every support for our kinfolk's valiant jurisdiah and heroic, escalating resistance in the Golan Heights, Palestine, and southern Lebanon, and for their heroic and vigorous confrontation of the spiteful occupation. [passage omitted]

We have valiantly and honorably waged the military conflict as we defended our homeland, the Palestinian Arab people, and the entire Arab nation. Thus, the victories of the October war of liberation [in 1973] have been the pride of the Arabs in the modern ages. Today, we are engaged in political action in order to achieve peace. Our clear objective is to liberate the land and restore the Palestinian Arab people's national rights. Our conditions and demands from the peace process have not changed, nor will they. They are conditions based on right and justice. Syria has agreed to join the peace process on the basis of implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, trading land for peace, full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and restoring Palestinian Arab people's national rights to achieve a just, comprehensive peace on all Arab fronts. This is the peace that we aspire for and work to attain. It is the peace of the brave, a real peace that restores the territory and guarantees rights. All events and the developments of the peace process over an entire year have proved that Israel does not want peace. It maneuvers, procrastinates, and deceives the world. It is engaged in constant aggression and annihilation in the occupied Arab territories and southern Lebanon.

We are waging the peace battle with stern resolve and determination and with firm faith in our cause and our right to liberate our entire territory and restore all our rights. This process is a basic part of our struggle against aggression and occupation. We have confidence in ourselves and our capabilities. We are confident that we are in possession of all factors of strength and steadfastness to confront the challenges of the Zionist enemy and to continue struggle until the liberation of the territory and the restoration of rights. This is our pan-Arab decision and unchanging position: either a just, comprehensive peace, or there will be neither stability nor security. Throughout its history, our nation has not surrendered, nor will it. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Armed Group Instigates Firefight in Kabul

BK1711165592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1642 GMT 17 Nov 92

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Nov 17 (AFP)—Rocket fire could be heard in eastern Kabul Tuesday, following the reported infiltration of the capital by unidentified gunmen who ambushed a senior government army officer.

General Nurullah Khan, deputy commander of a regiment of Uzbek forces under General Abdur Rashid Dostam escaped injury when his car was shot at while travelling to his army base on Maranjan Hill on the outskirts of the city.

Two bodyguards were reported wounded in the attack, soldiers on Maranjan Hill said, adding that they had retaliated with rockets and cannon fire.

"We fired down on them with our heavy weapons," they said.

According to local witnesses, more than 50 rockets were fired in the shootout.

Uzbek troops manning anti-aircraft batteries on Maranjan Hill blamed the Hezb-e Eslami faction of rebel leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar for the attack on Khan.

Senior officers at Dostam's brigade headquarters near the suburb of Kalayi Zaman Khan said Hezb fighters had infiltrated the city with the help of mujahedin from the National Liberation Front faction led by former Afghan prime minister Sebghatullah Mojaddedi.

"How could Hezb have entered the city from the outside without the help of Mojaddedi's men?" the brigade commander said.

Kalayi Zaman Khan, which opens eastwards onto the Hezb-held Bagrami district, is controlled by Mojaddedi's faction.

From gun emplacements on top of Maranjan Hill, Dostam's men also fired heavy machineguns at Hezb bases forward of Bagrami.

Four hours after the initial exchange, the sounds of heavy machineguns and rockets could still be heard in distant Kabul suburbs.

Dostam Commander Reports Attacks by Hekmatyar

LD1611131692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] General Zhorabek, General Dostam's commander in Kabul, told the reporter of the [Iranian Radio and Television] Voice and Sound in a telephone interview that sporadic rocket fire by Hekmatyar forces toward Beni-Hesar, the Maranjan heights, and Bala-Hesar continued this morning, but according to the command of the Ministry of Defense, troops under Zhorabek's command have refrained from retaliation. He said there are no casualty reports yet.

According to this source, because of yesterday's attacks by the Hezb-e Eslami on these areas in the vicinity of Kabul, one person was killed and four others injured. This is the condition that Kabul has reported as being completely normal today.

General Zhorabek also said that, in order to check any form of threat during the meeting of the Shura-e Ahl-e Hal Wa Aqd [Constituent Assembly], the forces of the North Movement have been put on alert.

In an exclusive interview with the reporter of the Voice and Sound, Zhorabek said more than 150,000 troops were under the command of General Dostam and, according to an agreement, all these forces are active under the command of the Islamic government of Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense and are prepared to firmly meet any anti-security force.

He said that General Dostam's forces are stationed in the Provinces of Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab, Samangan, Sar-e-pol, Kunduz, Takhar, and Kabul.

Clashes in Parwan Province Cause Heavy Damage

LD1711160792 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Over the past two days heavy fighting has been going on in various parts of Parwan Province among groups of the coalition administration of Kabul. The correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom reports from Kabul that for two days heavy fighting has been going on in the [?Arosi] and Dehbala areas in Parwan and Kapisa Provinces. In the fighting, which has been between supporters of the Supervisory Council and of the governor of Parwan Province, thus far much loss of life and material has been sustained by the two sides.

The report adds that similar clashes have taken place between men associated with Supervisory Council members, commanded by [words indistinct], and supporters of the governor of Parwan in Charikar City since yesterday. The two sides have extensively used heavy and light weapons, which has led to the killing and elimination of both sides and the residents of the area.

Hekmatyar Party: Proposed Council 'Impossible'

LD1711116992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Gulbeddin Hekmatyar's Islamic Party of Afghanistan [Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan] considers it impossible to set up a Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Hal wa 'Aqd] in Afghanistan.

The Afghan news agency affiliated to Hekmatyar's party states that opposition on the part of the parties and Council of Ulema of Afghanistan to the Leadership Council is one of the problems facing the creation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council.

The news agency states that Rabbani is making decisions without consulting with the other members of the Leadership Council, and that if this trend continues, it will be impossible to set up the Reconciliation and Settlement Council.

The Reconciliation and Settlement Council is to select Afghanistan's future president.

* Hekmatyar Against Extension of Rabbani Rule

93AS0150D London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Nov 92 p 4

[Article by Ahmad Mawaffaq Zaydan: "Hekmatyar to AL-HAYAH: 'We Oppose Renewal for Rabbani'"]

[Text] The leader of the Afghan Islamic Party [Hezb-e Islami], Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, declared his opposition for renewing the presidency of interim Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani. Hekmatyar told AL-HAYAH that his party would not abandon a military solution. This statement coincided with another statement from a party official to a French news agency that the party is imposing a food embargo on the capital.

Hekmatyar said that the extension of Rabbani's term of office does not concern the Islamic party, but he opposes it because it is in violation of the Peshawar agreement that was signed by the mujahidin prior to taking power. The agreement stipulates that it was not possible to renew the term of office of the interim president.

In his first reaction to the issue of renewing Rabbani's term, Hekmatyar said that the concern of the Islamic Party and the Afghan people is to is to get rid of the communists who are in power, dissolve the communist units, and remove the militia from Kabul. He added that he would not allow the communists to stay in power or threaten the Afghan people or be an obstacle to an Islamic state. He called for putting an end to the constitutional vacuum by means of forming an interim government that would be agreed upon by all the mujahidin parties to fill the vacuum until the parliament is formed.

Regarding the strategy of the party toward the government and the withdrawal of the militias, he said that nothing has changed because the situation did not change. He added that wherever one militia leaves, 10 militias take its place.

The Islamic Party accuses the government of plundering the wealth of the people and spending huge amounts of money to buy the loyalty of some people. It accuses the government of printing money that is not covered, which harms the credibility of the Afghan people. He demanded that all the state's authorities be vested in the Supreme Commander Council according to the Peshawar agreement, otherwise one person could monopolize the authority.

He denied that war is no longer an option, saying that as long as the current situation exists, the Islamic party shall not abandon the military option.

Regarding the parliament and the choice of a president to succeed Rabbani, he said that he would have preferred electing a parliament. He added that choosing one person from every directorate is difficult, although it would be beneficial if it is performed correctly.

Regarding the loss of Shindband air base in southwest Afghanistan, Hekmatyar accused Iran of interfering and siding with the government troops and the militia. He declined to specify which ones.

On the other hand, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, in a report from Rokhar, quoted an official in the Islamic Party who said that the party's forces near Kabul had blocked southward food supplies. Sa'id Naqibullah said that their objective is to weaken the government. He added that vehicles transporting food to Kabul would not be allowed in unless they have a written permission from the party leadership. He said that the blockade is the policy of the party.

He also stressed that all the major roads to Kabul from Qandahar, Jalalabad and Salang are subject to the same rule. He said that UN caravans that area carrying food from Peshawar to Kabul have written permission from the party.

It is worth mentioning that Rokhar, two miles away from the capital, is the entry from Lowgar Province in the southeast. The party's base in Rokhar was attacked, but government forces did not seize it last August when the party tried to force the government to expel the militias loyal to the communist regime of former President Najibullah.

* Sources Comment on Mujahidin Meeting

93AS0150A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Oct 92 p 4

[Article by Ahmad Mawaffaq Zaydan and Jamal Ismail from Kabul and Peshawar: "Information About New Formula After Meeting Between Rabbani and Hekmatyar Were of Kabul"

[Text] Well-informed Afghani sources told AL-HAYAH about the expected formula for government that is being prepared and might be revealed today at the meeting of the supreme command council of the mujahedin. This formula may bring new horizons of cooperation between the interim president Burhanuddin Rabbani and the two extremists leaders [Gulbuddin] Hekmatyar and [Abdul Rasul] Sayyaf.

The meeting will take place in an atmosphere of reconciliation among the three that was embodied in a secret meeting that took place last Wednesday in Baghman, west of Kabul. This surprise meeting was followed by another meeting two days ago between Hekmatyar and Sayyaf and Nasrullah Emad. These two meetings resulted in an agreement in principle according to which Rabbani would concede the presidency to Sayyaf provided that Rabbani becomes prime minister, and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud would leave the Ministry of Defense, which will be assigned to somebody from a neutral parties.

Some moderate Afghan sources said that Mas'ud resisted the possibility of such an agreement while he was preparing for a military coup if he does not approve of the newly chosen president or if he were to leave the Ministry of Defense. The sources added that Mas'ud has prepared for such a situation and has brought more troops from the north. The sources added that the relationship between Mas'ud and Sayyaf seems to be good but that Mas'ud will not keep quiet if he were forced out of the ministry of defense. Mas'ud is being criticized of being to close to the Uzbek militias.

The sources added that the supreme command council would meet today in Baghman. It is expected that the meeting would be attended by Rabbani and Sayyaf in addition to Ahmad Gaylani and the former interim President [Sebghatullah] Mojaddedi. It is also expected that Shaykh Yunus Khalis and Shaykh Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi would send representatives. Other sources mentioned that Hekmatyar would attend the meeting or would send a representative.

It is worth mentioning that Sayyaf has taken a strong position against the pro-Iranian [Islamic] Unity Party. Supporters of both sides fought many battles to control the area west of the capital.

On the other hand, Russian newspapers yesterday mentioned the possibility of dividing Afghanistan. UNITED PRESS quoted the Russian daily PRAVDA as reporting that the mujahedin leaders are dividing the community because they want to monopolize power in a struggle in which they are using their substantial military power.

The paper mentioned that the conflict among the Afghan leaders is not an ethnic one but rather a result of the desire of the local leaders to keep control in their areas. The paper added that Afghanistan is currently divided into four areas: the north, the center, Hazara (Shiite), and Pushtun (Sunni).

Iran

Iraqi Aircraft To Be Traded for Chinese Technology

PM1711165092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 15 Nov 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iran Returns for Technological Equipment Tehran Sells 100 Iraqi Aircraft to China"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Diplomatic sources in Tehran said yesterday that Iran had signed an agreement with China under which it would sell Beijing over 100 Iraqi military aircraft in return for Chinese technological equipment.

The Iraqi regime sent them to Iran during the war to liberate Kuwait for fear of their being destroyed by the forces of international legitimacy. But Iranian authorities seized and confiscated them as part of the compensation they are demanding for their losses during the eight-year war.

The sources said that the Iranian authorities embarked on this step after losing hope of receiving these compensations from Saddam Husayn's regime.

The same sources revealed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Syrian military experts visited Tehran, where they participated with Iranian experts in rehabilitating four Iraqi aircraft in a military airfield near Mashhad city.

Minister: Iran Has No Access to Nuclear Weapons

LD1511170392 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—Qatari ambassador to Iran, 'Ali 'Abdallah Zayd al-Mahmud, in a meeting with Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali-Muhammad Besharati here on Sunday, appreciated Iran's "positive" stand on regional developments.

Referring to the existing relations between Qatar and its neighbours, the Qatari diplomat emphasized the peaceful settlement of disputes between the countries.

The Iranian official said good relations were to the benefit of all regional countries. He added that interests of all regional people and the Islamic world demanded that the problems of all regional countries be settled "peacefully in a brotherly spirit."

He referred to the return of teachers to Abu Musa island and said Iran with its good intentions had tried to solve the problems of Sharjah citizens on the island.

Besharati refuted the claim of the western mass media about Iran having access to nuclear weapons and said their propaganda would only sow seeds of discord among countries.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran does not want to stir up a crisis in the region, and acquiring conventional weapons was only for defensive purposes," he made it clear.

The first deputy foreign minister referred to the positive stand of Qatar and some Arab countries on supporting the oppressed people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and urged foreign ministers of the Islamic countries to adopt a serious policy to support the B-H Muslims.

Outcry Over Sale of Russian Submarines Viewed

NC1511194292 Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Nov 92 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "U.S. Juvenile Behavior!"]

[Text] Based on information disseminated on 2 November by the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, a submarine, the U.S. Topeka, crossed the Strait of Hormuz and entered Persian Gulf waters. The report states that the submarine will stay for a month in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. officials have not shed any light on what role this nuclear submarine will play in the confined waters of the Persian Gulf. The U.S. naval spokesman stated that the submarine had docked at a Bahraini port.

From such contradictory reports regarding the time of the submarine's arrival, its assignment, and the venue of its deployment, it appears that Western news sources are trying to project its mission as covert and clandestine to initiate a sort of psychological warfare in the region. In this context the following points may be mentioned:

1. The submarine's—rather, the antisubmarine's—arrival was announced right before the arrival of the submarines that Iran purchased from Russia. The timing of this U.S. submarine's arrival underlines the unwise display of warmongering policies of the outgoing Republican government. At present, the congestion and traffic caused by the U.S. military in the Persian Gulf have increased to new levels along the shores of the southern countries. Obviously, one more submarine in these waters will not have any impact on the regional balance of power considering the tonnage and maneuverability restrictions that vessels face in this region.

Thus, this act merely bolsters the impression that this is a juvenile reaction to the presence of the Iranian submarine on the part of the news sources, especially since the time and place of the arrival of the U.S. submarine is unclear.

2. Another point worth mentioning is the psychological effect the presence of an American submarine is having on the Arab shaykhs of the Persian Gulf littoral states to mitigate their apprehension over the arrival of the Iranian submarine.

Despite the large U.S. military presence, the regional hosts are still insecure. Therefore, quickly dispatching a submarine and giving no details of its location can be analyzed within the framework of the need for support by the reactionary governments of the Persian Gulf.

3. It seems that the United States considers as a serious and real threat any access Iran may have to any modern naval military resources. From this point of view, the increasing U.S. pressure on those who sell such equipment is worth pondering.

For instance, the recent U.S. pressure on Russia is worth mentioning as it aims to prevent Russia from selling its remaining submarines, which has already been agreed upon.

Similarly, it appears that the recent uproar over the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf is not unrelated to this kind of apprehension and this is borne out by the intermittent reports emanating from U.S. sources aimed at pressuring Iran to return the submarines and depicting a link between the two issues.

In any case, dispatching the U.S. submarine—even for a short time—can generate only a fleeting calm among the southern neighbors. What remains is the fact that the regional countries will endure, despite the hue and cry raised by others, and this is an immutable fact.

TV Assails 'Propaganda' on Arms Purchases

LD1711181092 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1605 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] These days foreign wire services and radios are engaged in a new conspiracy against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The gradual, orderly, and planned effort of world propaganda is these days aimed at accomplishing the propaganda aim of stating that, first, Iran is in the process of purchasing arms, and second, that Iran is turning into a dangerous factor. [passage omitted]

The threat of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the illegitimate existence of the regime occupying Jerusalem is obvious to all. Annihilating the Zionist regime and encouraging the revolutionary Muslims of Palestine and the world to continue the struggle until the destruction of the malignant tumor of Israel are among the unwavering policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, what has led the Zionist regime to point out the threat of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Arab countries? Is this not a viable reason for the existence of an extensive plot on the part of Zionist and arrogant circles against our revolution? How is it that the multi-million dollar purchases of the Zionist regime and other friends of America in the region are covered up without any comment or analysis, while frightened news agencies and radios in the world are assigned to make Iran out to be the receiver of huge arms purchases from all over the world.

Viewing the volume of the propaganda devoted to the empty subject of Iran's arms purchases, in comparison with other important global developments, leaves no

doubt in one's mind that there is an extensive propaganda plot in progress. It seems that western and Zionist circles are pursuing three aims with this move. First, to justify and step up political pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran as the seat of Islam and the protector of the world oppressed. Second, to scare other countries in the region and paint a frightening picture of the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that they could sell more weapons to them. Third, to disrupt the friendly ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and regional countries and prevent the expansion of friendly ties.

Nowadays, having left behind assorted plots—capped by the imposed war—and having made speedy progress in its economy and construction, the Islamic Republic of Iran is about to present to the world an example of the development of an independent country not affiliated with hegemonistic powers. And, naturally, it encounters the spite of its enemies. For that same reason we see that, parallel with Iran's technical and economic progress, political pressure on our country is increasing and the Islamic Republic of Iran is made out to the world to be a cause of tension and danger—one big arsenal.

By dispatching modern weapons to the Zionist regime, America and the west are bent on disrupting the regional balance in favor of their own expansionist and plundering policies and against the Muslim nations of the region. To conceal this extensive action, they have resorted to empty claims of huge arms purchases by Iran so that they can thus attain their other goals, which are justifying the political pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran and preventing the expansion of our friendly ties with regional countries.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the disappearance of crisis points in the world, companies manufacturing and exporting arms are today looking for ways of persuading and encouraging countries in the region to buy more weapons. It is not without reason that, in a planned and extensive program, they should make Iran out to be a threat to regional countries. [passage omitted]

Velayati, Austria's Mock Discuss Bosnia on Phone

LD1711160692 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Austrian counterpart Alois Mock discussed the latest developments in the Balkans including the embattled Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in a telephone conversation today.

The increase in the relief aid by Islamic states to Bosnia was also reviewed, with Velayati referring to some common viewpoints of the two countries in this regard.

Welcoming the proposal for further cooperation between Croatia and Bosnia, Velayati said presence of the Croatian foreign minister in the forthcoming emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah would be helpful.

Majlis Criticizes UN Decisions on Bosnia

LD1711212292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The Majlis Foreign Policy Commission has issued a statement criticizing the recent decisions adopted by the UN Security Council on Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The statement says in part: Recent decisions adopted by the UN Security Council on Bosnia-Hercegovina once again demonstrate the inability of that organization to perform its duties, which consist of maintaining world peace and security and confronting aggression.

The Security Council, which acts with such lack of responsibility over the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina, acted decisively over the Kuwait problem, sending vast military forces to the region following numerous meetings and speedy resolutions. Does that council grade human rights on the basis of oil deposits? [passage omitted]

Velayati Phones UNHCR on Bosnian Conditions

LD1711161292 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Minister of foreign affairs, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a phone call to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Mrs. Sadako Ogata, today called for probe into the status of Bosnian refugees.

Ogata in reply, described the Serbian cruelty against Bosnian Muslims as a "catastrophe", and said that she, as the special envoy of the U.N. secretary general has been invited to participate in the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers due to be held in Jeddah.

She told Velayati that in Jeddah, she would urge the participants to conduct full-scale relief assistance to the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

President Meets Majlis Commission for Complaints

LD1611142892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] At a meeting with members of the Majlis Article-90 Commission, Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the importance of the commission and the seriousness of implementing legal duties.

The president told the members of the commission that its work is very valuable, as it will strengthen the system

and reform the country's various organizations. The proper work of the commission will guarantee the well-being of the country's executive organs.

Finally the president emphasized the need for officials of government organizations to cooperate with this commission.

At the beginning of the meeting, the commission's head gave a detailed report on its activities and procedures.

Industries Minister Presents Report to Majlis

LD1411151692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Text] In today's open session of the Majlis, Industries Minister Ne'matzadeh submitted a report to the Majlis deputies on the country's industrial structure and policies, and the industrial projects and existing bottlenecks and problems in the country's industrial sector.

According to our correspondent's report, remarking on the activities of the Industries Ministry during the past three years, Ne'matzadeh said: The basic area of the Industries Ministry's concern comprises 93 percent of all the country's industrial workshops, with 80 percent of them being value added and 79 percent devoted to industrial production; 80 percent of industrial employment and activities are also within this sector.

Continuing his report, the industries minister expounded the ministry's executive policies aimed at attaining the objectives and policies of the first five-year plan. The executive policies of the Industries Ministry include: utilizing industrial units to maximum capacity, especially in strategic industries and those needed by the society; encouraging production units and attempts toward removing the distribution network monopolies; encouraging promotion of exports; paying attention to the reconstruction of amortized industries; supporting investment in the deprived and war-stricken areas; focusing on industrial investment in agricultural conversion, dairy, and construction material projects; and drafting preparatory and preliminary plans for transferring government-owned units to the private sector.

Remarking on the strategy of promoting exports instead of imports, he stressed the need to conduct research and training in the state's industries as the foundation for the management of production.

Enumerating the existing bottlenecks and obstacles in the country's industrial sector, he attributed the confusion to the absence of a fixed rate and amount of foreign exchange allocation to industrial production. He said that the random import of foreign commodities is a serious threat to the country's production. He described the other problems and bottlenecks of the industrial sector as the absence of the required support coefficient for domestic products in comparison to imported commodities, the lack of export incentives, the non-coordination of economic policies governing industries with the aim of transferring industries to the private sector, and also the absence of support levers for popular investment in deprived areas. He submitted a number of proposals.

The industries minister pointed out that the country's economy cannot be separated from production. Industry is also part of production, and greater attention must be paid to it and greater investments must be made, he declared.

Ministry's Role Challenged After Meier Arrest

NC1511165292 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Nov 92 p 18

["Ali Akbar Kesa'iyun commentary: "Leeway and Lame Excuses"]

[Text] An American citizen resident in Iran, Milton Meier, was recently arrested by the Information Ministry and is currently in prison. Milton was the brother-in-law of the executed Nasiri head of the Shah's SAVAK [Sazman-e Amniat va Etela'at-e Keshvar—Intelligence Department] and, on the pretext of having an Iranian spouse, lived in Iran before the revolution. He found the situation so favorable after the revolution that he did not move. During these 14 years, he engaged in various economic and commercial transactions and even espionage. He passed on classified information to foreigners.

In the years after the revolution, Milton opened up numerous companies without any license and, while conveying important commercial and economic information to foreigners, he identified effective agents in these fields in the country and introduced them to foreigners, for which he obtained thousands of dollars in bribes. He has admitted these charges and is also accused of espionage.

Our complaint against the unknown soldiers of the Information Ministry is: Why did they not know of such an influential and dangerous individual? Why was there no surveillance of his movements; he continued to take bribes and indulge in commercial and economic extortion, to convey information to foreigners for 14 years, and to deal blows to our country's embryonic economy. He was arrested after 14 years!

Why do we split hairs when it comes to keeping an eye on the actions of our own employees and officials and then, even when they are arrested, we strictly forgive their misdemeanors after their arrest and imprisonment? At times, administrative tribunal verdicts on reinstating them get ignored and, for the system's good, we do not permit them to return to their former jobs. Meanwhile, an American foreigner—the brother-in-law of the executed Nasiri—operates so freely that he can do whatever he wishes, getting arrested after he has done enormous harm!

Our other contention is addressed to those who issue licenses for economic and commercial companies, including the Ministry of Commerce, the municipality, and revenue departments. When a deprived citizen wishes to set up as a vendor, we count his teeth and demand a plethora of documents such as his identification card, Basiji coupon books, certificate of past records, declaration that he was not employed in government service, settlement of his accounts and taxes with the municipality, and his receipts for water, power, and telephone. At the same time, a foreigner is free enough to set up numerous conglomerates and pillage the Treasury! When an employee wishes to apply for a position, we ask him scores of relevant and irrelevant questions and interrogate him ruthlessly, yet we provide so much leeway to these foreign spies! No one says that people's pasts should not be investigated when they apply for a job or a license to indulge in trade. This should be done. If only we were as ruthless and meticulous in everything we do! Sometimes we leave the door open so wide that a huge camel with a heavy load can pass easily, but at other times we make such lame excuses about opening a chink through which not even a blind goat would pass!

Writer Notes 'Conditions' for U.S.-Iranian Ties

NC1611131092 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 Nov 92 pp 1-2

[Mohammad Kazem Anbarluyi editorial: "We Are Here To Stay"]

[Text] In his first policy statement after his election, Clinton commented on relations with Iran and listed the following preconditions for establishing relations with Iran:

1. Iran should give up its political slogans.

2. Iran should fall in step with the United States.

Answering Clinton, one word suffices: "Thanks!" These are two very old and tattered conditions that have often been repeated by the White House and its spokesmen in the past 14 years. This shows that the "choice cut of those who plan how to rule the world" have not come up with any new ideas, otherwise Clinton would have stated them!

These two preconditions are actually the two sides of one coin—the captivity of the Iranian nation! Were it to give up its slogans and fall in step with the United States, it would not have paid the huge price to gain its grandeur, respect, and independence; it would have taken the Americans' advice and done its best to preserve the shah's monarchy!

This shows that the American brain is still not working well. And if this is the case, how can they think of "keeping the capitalist system going?"

Clinton's proposals lack the least bit of diplomatic tact. If the Americans believe in these two principles, which they have very clearly stated, in their foreign relations with governments and nations, this in itself is the greatest confession to the world that the U.S. Government always threatens nations' independence and territorial integrity!

Why should falling in line with the United States and altering the political and cultural beliefs of a nation be propounded as a precondition of political relations?

This young son of Uncle Sam should be told: Now that your fathers are speaking about the life and death of your own system, with which one of your "steps" do you want us to "fall in step?"

Your predecessors have frozen billions of dollars of Iranian assets. Your predecessors and their friends have downed millions of tonnes of bombs and missiles on our homes! In political dictionaries, our great country is worth ten times yours and has a history that is much greater than yours. And you define our logic as "Mongol!"

The Mongols were a savage and uncivilized tribe that only thought of how to massacre women and children and set fire to cities and countries.

But history shows that our nation's great and powerful culture refined this savage... [ellipsis as published]

Now this healthy and powerful nation is standing on its own feet. This nation is alive because Islam is alive. The new value and identity gained by our nation after the revolution lie in its creating new values and new policies and opposing America's criminal policies. This the true source of our strength. Why should we ignore it?

Even if we did not have our religion and wanted to join the world's power club some day, we would still not let go of our power! [as published]

Today the children of Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, have matured in the occupied territories of Palestine and learned very well how to clench their fists.

Today there are those who are enamored with the imam in Africa, Asia, Europe, and even next door to you, in Latin America; if the spark of their faith approaches the powder keg of your blasphemy, all the glass palaces of neocapitalism will be destroyed. This will happen. The signs of the emergence of such revolutions exist in CIA reports, but you do not believe them as you did not believe the Islamic revolution of Iran would take place! Clinton should not forget that the philosophy behind the votes cast for him was what Rockefeller called "the continuation of the capitalist system." He who wants to "stay" should give concessions, not he who is "here to stay!"

The way to continue to exist is not by establishing global despotism. History has proven that the bayonet is not a good support, even for one decade of rule.

The picture we—and you—have been seeing for the past 14 years is the reality that we are "here to stay." But no one in the region or the world knows what may happen tomorrow and the awesome events stemming from fundamental changes in the world's political geography are proof of this.

Even you, despite your deep capitalist ties with Europe and Japan, cannot optimistically count on your friendship with them.

In view of the situation Europe is facing after Maastricht, no law will be able to control the insatiable greed of a pack of wolves in a cold winter... [ellipsis as published]

You are facing a raging wave of Islamism throughout the Islamic world. Even your puppet governments are trying, under the pressures of their nations' public opinion, to diminish the distance between their political-social-cultural relations and the teachings of Islam.

If the capitalists had the least amount of brain, they would know that the first point in the "theory of retreating" dictates unconditionally seeking to discover the conditions set by the other side.

You can consider the above as the first round of talks between an Iranian Muslim citizen and yourself on relations between the two countries.

The following are our two basic conditions:

1. The United States should stop plotting and aggressing against nations and should set aside its useless quarrelsome attitude.

2. The United States should fall in step with Islam and refrain from warring against God and his prophet. This world has an owner.

Otherwise, we believe that we are here to stay and, as stated by the leader of the Islamic revolution on 4 November, "We can rub the muzzle of arrogance in dirt and prevent it from infiltrating the world. More than this, we can break the power of world arrogance on an international level."

This is what hizbullahis worldwide believe.

Hamas Said To Gain Iran's Backing on Palestine

LD1711140392 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] London, Nov. 17, IRNA—HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], the largest Islamic force in the occupied territories, has gained formal political backing from Iran in its commitment to liberate Palestine.

According to a report from Amman, last month's meeting between Hamas and senior Iranian officials in Tehran strengthened existing ties to make Palestine the number one priority.

Quoting leading HAMAS member in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghosheh, the London INDEPENDENT Tuesday reported that outline strategies had been agreed during the visit to Tehran, where Iran had also offered its continuing support for the intifadah.

Such a pact, the paper believed, would set "alarm bells" ringing in Jerusalem. It said Israel had already been escalating its rhetoric against Iran.

HAMAS models itself in many respects on the Islamic revolution in Iran and has grown into the most influential movement opposed to the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestine.

Ghosheh was said to recognize that the Palestinians would not be able to liberate themselves without the support of other Muslims and was intending to further strengthen its ties with Hizbullah in Lebanon as well as seeking support from other Islamic nations.

Tehran Foresees New Camp David Accord

NC1511195592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Representatives of the parties to the Washington peace talks are due to meet tomorrow within the final stage of the seventh round of talks between the Arab countries and Israel. The seventh round began on 21 October 1992 and was suspended for 10 days when it coincided with the U.S. presidential election. After Bill Clinton's victory, the participating delegations resumed their meetings. Tomorrow Washington will witness the final stage of the seventh round of negotiations. This stage will last 10 days amid expectations that it will be deadlocked like previous discussions.

Israeli policy operates on two fronts. The first is sowing discord among the Arabs and dealing with each Arab country separately. The Jordanian-Israeli agreement over the agenda of the talks proves this policy. The main cause of Arab anxiety over the future of the negotiations is Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election. It has cast a dark shadow over the peace negotiations and dampened Arab spirits. The U.S. Democratic Party traditionally has close ties with the Zionist entity. Clinton made generous promises to Israel and gained 6 million U.S. Jewish votes. He did not hesitate to assert the importance of keeping Israel strong on the grounds that it is the green oasis of democracy in the Middle East desert, as he put it. He announced that Jerusalem is Israel's permanent capital. Clinton also frankly rejected the idea of forming an independent Palestinian government in the occupied territories. He promised to extend major aid to Israel to maintain its overall military superiority over the Arab countries.

It is clear that such positions have one objective and serve the interests of one party to the negotiations: Israel. Hence, it is not strange that Israel should significantly

escalate its brutal attacks against Lebanon, heedless of the effect this has on the negotiations. U.S. encouragement has made Tel Aviv dare to declare that it will stay in south Lebanon. Israel also called on the Syrian Government to put an end to the Lebanese resistance attacks on the Zionist occupation forces in south Lebanon. Syria's rejection of this insolent Israeli request provoked clear resentment in Israeli ruling circles. For the first time, Syrian and Lebanese newspaper began to hint at the prospect of an Arab boycott of the peace negotiations after the Arabs failed to attain their objectives and despaired of the talks. It is clear that the total and frank U.S. support for the Zionist entity has caused Zionist negotiators to adopt hardline positions and increased the Zionist appetite for Arab concessions.

Numerous signs indicate that Washington is planning to create an appropriate climate to conclude a new Camp David accord in a manner that gives Israel what it wants. Washington and Tel Aviv are relying on the Egyptian regime to play an effective role in persuading the Arabs to accept this new, bitter fact. The Zionist foreign minister's current visit to Egypt is part of this plan.

Radio Criticizes Gulf Defense Ministers' Meeting

NC1711203392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement describing the stand of five Arab countries in the southern Persian Gulf as politically unimportant and insignificant. Following the meeting in Kuwait of the cooperation council's member countries' defense ministers, they issued a statement defending United Arab Emirates [UAE] allegations regarding the Iranian islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek and the issues pertaining to Abu Musa island. Qatar did not attend the meeting.

Including such issues in the final statement is really interference in the internal affairs of an independent state and comes at a time when disputes have cropped up recently between Iran and the UAE over Abu Musa island. Slowly but surely, the crisis died down and things went back to normal. Reports say that life on Abu Musa is now as normal as it was before. Schoolteachers and their families have returned to the island from al-Shariqah. This shows that normal life has been restored despite the media uproar that deliberately attempted to create tension in the region.

What is noteworthy amid these political events is the unwavering logic of Islamic Iran based on self-restraint and good intentions. Regarding the Abu Musa island, the Islamic Republic of Iran has recently affirmed its adherence to the policy of understanding. It agrees with the idea of resolving disputes through peaceful negotiations so that the countries in the region can realize their vital interests in an atmosphere of stability and security.

Amid all this, raising such weak allegations in the final statement of the defense ministers meeting and their support for these allegations is truly an illogical step that will start a new chapter of tension and crises in this sensitive region. Supporting the UAE allegations regarding the Iranian islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek—in addition to the fact that it is clear-cut interference in the internal affairs of an independent state—is in fact a disguise to cover for the internal problems among the members of the cooperation council, which has been unable to resolve the sharp differences between Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Qatar's refusal to participate in the meeting and its previous boycott of the council's meetings, as well as its threats to withdraw from it, proves the inability of these countries to find a solution that provides internal harmony among its own members.

Presenting these weak allegations at this time is illogical and arouses suspicions. Linking such allegations to the issue of joint Arab security reveals those fingers playing with fire to create this dispute and their role in creating a crisis through which they can realize political goals—something that cannot be ignored or disregarded.

In this scope, one cannot rule out pawns like Husni Mubarak, who are even more concerned about the issue than the countries directly involved.

Transportation Discussed With Uzbek Officials

Uzbekistan's Samandarov on Rail Project

LD1611171992 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran Nov. 16, IRNA—Uzbek Deputy Premier Erkin Samandarov said here today that the railway project connecting Mashhad with Sarakhs and thence to Tajan on the Iran-Turkmenistan border, would be an important transportation link between Iran and Central Asia.

Samadarov and Iran's Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, in their meeting, stressed the necessity of promoting a safe and active transportation system for the region.

A draft agreement on air, road and rail transport is to be signed by the two sides soon.

Air Transport Agreement Signed

LD1711143992 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Iran and Uzbekistan concluded an agreement on air transportation, here Tuesday.

The agreement, signed by Head of the State Aviation Organization 'Ali Mohammad Nurian and Deputy Economy Minister of Uzbekistan Sadeq Safayev, calls

for establishment of flights between Tehran and Tashkent, formation of joint transportation commission, establishment of transport companies and exchange of experts delegations and manpower training.

Under the agreement the two sides will also support each other at international organizations and forums, examine avenues for holding the future sessions and exchange technicians and experts.

Habibi, Samsudarov Discuss Ties

LD1711183892 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—First Vice President Hasan Habibi told Uzbek Vice Premier Erkin Samsudarov said here today that the Iranian and Uzbek people should follow the pattern of the past when mutual cooperation between the two people resulted in a rich civilization. Habibi also said that he was looking forward to the visit of Uzbek President Islam Karimov to Tehran.

Samsudarov who is here to make arrangements for Karimov's visit, termed his talks in Tehran as "fruitful", and said preliminaries have been worked out for Tehran-Tashkent cooperation which will be finalized by the presidents of the two countries.

Minister Discusses Border With Turkish Official

LD1611131992 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 16 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—Iran-Turkey border and security cooperation and issues related to border crossing by Iranian and Turkish nationals were discussed in a meeting between the visiting Turkish Deputy Interior Minister Reza Ilkemir and Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Abdollah Nuri here monday.

On clashes on Iraq-Turkey border and advancement of Turkish troops to the Iraqi territory, Ilkemir said that the Turkish forces have penetrated into the Iraqi territory "to stop the repeated attacks of the Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas on the Turkish territory, killing of innocent border dwellers and to halt their infiltration into the Turkish territory."

He added, "despite the fact that the Iraqi Government lacks the necessary stability and power to control its borders, Turkey has no covetus eye on the Iraqi territory and will withdraw to the international borders after suppressing the invading Kurds."

The Iranian minister referred to Iran-Turkey common religious and cultural backgrounds and expressed hope that the two countries' cooperation, in border and security fields in particular, will be further expanded.

Publication Reports on Iranian Merchant Fleet

LD1711151992 Tehran IRNA in English 1451 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) with a nominal capacity of 2 million 350,000 tonnes, is the largest merchant fleet in the Middle East, according to a Tehran-based economic magazine.

With National Iranian Tanker Company and Offshore Tanker Co. the entire Iranian fleet equals that of India, says "IRAN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS" bi-monthly in its latest issue, adding that IRISL has well-trained staff and 110 well-maintained vessels.

It says liner services covers western Europe, northern America, Far East, Australia, south America, and Persian Gulf to east Africa. IRISL not only has a key role in imports and exports but also in transportation of cargo for non-Iranian businesses outside and inside the country, the magazine says. It competes with the larger well-established liners on the international market.

Although IRISL is state-owned and gives priority to the state's interests and export promotion, it has never been a public sector in practice because it had to be self-supportive.

IRISL also plays an important role in passenger transportation. Its subsidiary company Valfajr-8 has regular services to all the Persian Gulf and Oman seas states except Saudi Arabia and to some of the Persian Gulf Iranian islands such as Kish and Kharg.

IRISL with 'Iran-Bushir' and 'Iran-Bander' cargo ships has begun trading in the Caspian Sea and during last year the two ships carried 30 percent of all the cargo imported to Iran through the northern ports.

A vessel with a capacity to carry 200 passengers has been purchased from Japan, and is on its way to the Caspian and expected to arrive there next August, the bi-monthly says, concluding that Iran has a strong presence in the Caspian, and IRISL can offer exports and imports facilities to the ex-USSR republics.

Pakistan

Opposition March Sparks Confrontation, Protests

'Showdown' Predicted

BK1011031892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] In Pakistan, the Nawaz Sharif government has taken unprecedented measures to prevent the opposition People's Democratic Alliance [PDA], led by Ms. Benazir Bhutto, from staging a long march on Islamabad today. While over 20,000 PDA workers are reported to have been arrested all over the country, all roads leading to the capital have been barricaded. The AIR [All India Radio]

Islamabad correspondent, Suresh Chopra, who went round the city this morning, reports that Army and paramilitary troops are visible in large numbers guarding public buildings and installations. Trenches have been dug outside Parliament House with troops guarding the area surrounded by sandbags. Authorities have also sealed Ms. Benazir Bhutto's office in Parliament House. In Rawalpindi, the entire Liaqat Bagh, which is the place where the marchers were congregating before starting the march on the capital, have been flooded by water tankers. The entire transport system between Rawalpindi and Islamabad has been disrupted.

Our correspondent reports that a show-down is now inevitable with the PDA determined to hold the long march despite obstacles and obstructions. As reported earlier, Ms. Benazir Bhutto has announced that the march will take place despite the ban by the government. She will lead the march from Rawalpindi demanding government's dismissal and pressing for fresh elections. Mr. Nawaz Sharif, who celebrates this month the second anniversary of his government, described the march as a call for an open rebellion. He said the opposition cannot be allowed to cause anarchy and chaos.

Police, Opposition Clash

BK1811093492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 18 (AFP)—Fighting broke out between demonstrators and police in two cities Wednesday ahead of a march on the capital organised by former premier Benazir Bhutto. Fighting was reported in Peshawar in Northwest Frontier Province and in Lahore in the east amid a massive security clampdown to block the opposition march aimed at forcing Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to call early general elections.

Sharif has banned the march and outlawed public gatherings.

In Peshawar hundreds of demonstrators clashed with police who fired tear-gas grenades, witnesses said.

Shops, filling stations, schools and colleges were closed. Police had set up around a dozen checkpoints in the city and were preventing demonstrators from travelling to Islamabad.

In Lahore, police fired tear gas to break up a demonstration of several hundred protestors, but they regrouped immediately. A police jeep and two buses were set on fire.

A bridge on the road leading to Islamabad was blocked by police.

Bhutto, 38, believes the government has been weakened by successive defections of allies in parliament and the time is now ripe for a decisive move against it. Bhutto, who leads a four-party Peoples Democratic Alliance, has said the march will go ahead despite the government ban.

Sharif has described the march as "a call for open rebellion."

Barbed wire barricades were thrown up across main roads leading to parliament and sandbags were stacked across Islamabad's main thoroughfares and around open spaces surrounding parliament. Newspapers were critical of the government for over-reacting to the march, imposing a "state of siege" according to some while others said the authorities had yielded to panic.

In Rawalpindi—the former Pakistan capital about 15 kilometers (nine miles) away, from where the opposition planned to begin its march on Islamabad—the police presence was heavy and there were few vehicles about and hardly any public transport on the streets, witnesses said.

Bhutto Breaks Through Police Lines

BK1811122292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 18 (AFP)—Former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto's supporters were beaten by police Wednesday as they helped her break through police cordons set up around her house to prevent them joining a planned opposition march. She managed to escape in a car which drove off to an unknown destination.

Around 3:00 p.m. (1000 GMT), Bhutto emerged from her house accompanied by about 50 unarmed supporters and marched up to one of the barricades blocking access to the street.

Lifting the coils of barbed wire, the group pushed through a cordon of helmeted police armed with truncheons and riot shields before threading their way through a barricade of trucks parked across the street. Police beat several opposition officials, while Bhutto was occasionally in the front line of the crowd pushing through the barricades.

Pale but dignified, Bhutto told journalists that she had "demonstrated that (Prime Minister) Nawaz Sharif's government exercised its power through force and not by the will of the people."

The Pakistani Government has declared subversive a demonstration called by the opposition to demand elections and has adopted massive security measures to prevent a march on parliament going ahead.

Radio Says 'No Response' to PDA Call

BK1811113192 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] The PDA's [People's Democratic Alliance's] call for demonstration in Islamabad today evoked no response from the general public. The government had made adequate security arrangements to maintain law

and order to protect the life and property of the citizens and to deal firmly with those trying to indulge in acts of violence.

According to reports, there has been no untoward incident in Rawalpindi or Islamabad. However, a few incidents of stone pelting by the PDA workers have been reported in Rawalpindi. Most of the shops and business centers remained open. Buses and wagons are almost off the road, but private cars, taxis, and motorcycles are plying almost normally. Attendance in offices was somewhat affected due to transport problems. (Text) people in Islamabad or living in the vicinity of their workplaces managed to reach offices. The protest call by the PDA caused hardships to passengers as transporters plying their vehicles on suburban, interdistrict and regional routes kept their buses and wagons off the road for fear of damage to their transports.

Opposition Leader Protests in Senate

BK1811104492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 18 Nov 92

[Text] Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chaudhary Amir Hussain has categorically stated that the government will not allow anyone to harm the life and property of the people and that action will be taken against those who violate the country's law. He was replying to a point of order in the Senate this afternoon raised by opposition leader Yahya Bakhtiar as a protest against public harassment. The federal minister made it clear that the federal government cannot allow the people who are trying to destabilize democratic institutions to do whatever they like. They are threatening to create chaos in the country and to capture the Parliament House, the prime minister's residence, and important government buildings including the presidency and the television station. He said that Section 144 [banning assembly of five or more people] is already in force in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. So, how can the government allow these elements to commit crimes and violate the law, the minister asked.

Later, opposition leader Yahya Bakhtiar walked out of the house. Manzur Ahmad Ghichki, Abdur Rahim Mandokhel, and Tariq Chaudhary took part in the debate. Later, Manzur Ahmad Ghichki and members of his own party—Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam—Hafiz Hussain Ahmad and Abdur Rahim Mandokhel also walked out of the house. The Senate will resume its session tomorrow morning.

Sharif Vows No Anarchy

BK1711151192 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the government never closed the doors for dialogue and rapprochement with the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] and the doors were still open. Briefing foreign journalists in Islamabad today, the prime minister, however, reiterated that the government would not allow anybody to create anarchy and chaos in the country. He said we cannot allow anybody to subvert the Constitution. The politics of subversion and violence had no place in the country. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said no government could allow the politics of destruction and subversion. The government believes in politics of decency. The politics of violence was the hallmark of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and not the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad], he added.

The prime minister said we faced them with decent politics in the past and will continue to do so in the future as well. He said we have never banned political activity in the country, but now they have threatened to capture and storm the parliament and other installations in the capital. This is not political activity. No government can allow politics of violence and subversion. The government has tried its best to have reconciliation with the opposition. The prime minister said: I wrote a letter to the leader of the opposition for a political dialogue, but the leader of the opposition in her reply put a number of preconditions virtually rejecting my offer. He said the politics of snatching and grabbing power was not understandable. What brand of politics is this? the prime minister asked. The prime minister reiterated that the government would try to (?avert) confrontation but if the opposition took the law into its hands, we can never allow that.

Greater U.S. Attention to South Asia Urged

BK1811021492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Nov 92

[A.B.S. Jafri Commentary]

[Text] United States Senators Paul Simon and Howard Metzenbaum on a visit to Pakistan have been having talks with political and government leaders in Islamabad. They have had in-depth exchange of ideas with the president, the prime minister, and the chairman of the Senate. Both senators are among the leading lights on Capital Hill in Washington and their interest in the affairs of this country and this region is a matter of most significance to the governments in Islamabad and Washington. Among the topics which the Government of the United States has been particularly concerned about are nuclear nonproliferation, defense spending, human rights and the disputes which keep Pakistan's relations with neighboring India in more or less constant unease. Any understanding of the relations between Pakistan and the United states will be inadequate and incomplete without grasping the fact that except for the past three years or so, these two countries have been close and intimate allies. The climate of intimacy has, however, been clouded over by some misunderstandings. That is one aspect of the contemporary situation which the visiting senators must have been making an on-the-spot assessment of. And, it is just as well that senior lawmakers of the United States should be enabled to acquaint themselves with the actual situation on the ground.

The other major item of interest to Washington about Pakistan and this region is essentially the issue of Pakistan-India relations. It is the nature of this equation between Islamabad and New Delhi, which influences all major issues like nuclear nonproliferation, defense spending, and human rights. And, the core issue between Pakistan and India which determines the status of their relationship is Kashmir. In short, if you settle the Kashmir issue in a fair and just manner acceptable to the people of Kashmir, the political environment in South Asia will be pacified almost instantly. Why Pakistan appears to the United States to be less than flexible on the nuclear issue? It is explainable simply by looking at India's nuclear capability on the one hand and its arrogant refusal to solve the Kashmir problem.

India's nuclear arsenal is variously estimated, but there is no doubt that it is at the moment in possession of around 100 nuclear bombs with a capability to assemble scores more in a very short time. Pakistan is way behind India in this respect and yet Pakistan is not insisting upon matching India's nuclear arsenal. On the contrary, Pakistan has been pressing on with its proposal for a five-power solution which brings together India, China, the United States, Russia, and itself.

The visiting senators, of course, are aware that this Pakistan initiative has been endorsed by Washington and all others concerned. Only India is standing off. Just the other day the United Nations gave its blessings to the Pakistan's formula in an overwhelming majority. It is up to the United States to use its good offices to prevail upon New Delhi to help rid South Asia, and ultimately the whole of Asia, of the menace of nuclear weapons. Once the Kashmir dispute is out of the way, both Pakistan and India can safely reduce spending on defense drastically.

The human rights issue is a matter of as much genuine and passionate concern to Pakistan, as it might be to the United states. Here again the Government of the United States should be made fully aware of the situation obtaining in the Indian occupied Kashmir, which has been under military rule for over three years. During the past three years more than 300,000 Indian troops have been on the rampage because that is only [word indistinct] they know to accomplish their impossible task of suppressing a total uprising in the valley against Indian occupation. It is well within the area of the moral responsibility of the United States to take greater and deeper interest in the affairs of this strategic region with over a billion human beings who deserve much better from the world than they are getting.

Khan Meets U.S. Commander on Kashmir Solution

BK1711153992 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Nov 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has called upon all the powers interested in world peace and security to take a meaningful initiative for a permanent solution of the Kashmir problem based on justice and equality in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. He was talking to the visiting commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, General Joseph B. Hour, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidential palace] today. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the custodians of international peace must impress upon India the urgent need to start a process to resolve the Kashmir dispute which constituted a potential threat to peace in South Asia. Gen. Hour agreed that Kashmir is the central issue between Pakistan and India, which should be resolved for all other aspects of their bilateral relations to fall in place.